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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Nation

Camp counselor slayings: Two camp counselors killed on a California beach were remembered Saturday for their strong Christian faith as family and friends gathered to honor the couple who had planned to marry.

Lindsay Cutshall, 23, and her fiancé, Jason Allen, 26, were found Aug. 18 on a secluded beach along the Northern California coast. Both had been shot in the head while lying in sleeping bags.

Investigators have no suspects.

Church abuse claims: A judge has thrown out several claims of sexual abuse involving a Roman Catholic priest in Northern California, striking a potential blow to hundreds of men and women who allege they were molested while diocese officials looked the other way.

Judge Ronald Sabraw said plaintiffs' attorneys had not presented any direct evidence the church "knew or had reason to know, or were otherwise on notice, of any unlawful sexual conduct" by the priest, who is now dead. The claims were part of a consolidated lawsuit involving 160 complaints against Northern California clergy.

Va. death row inmate: A federal judge Friday denied a death row inmate's attempt to delay his execution for a second time on the grounds that putting him to death by injection would be unconstitutionally cruel. James Edward Reid's lawyers claimed that Virginia's method of execution was unconstitutional because it was possible Reid could still be conscious when the last of three drugs is administered and would suffer pain before he dies.

U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson said in his ruling that the procedure would kill the defendant within five to 10 minutes and reduce the chance that he would be conscious of any pain to less than 6/1000 of 1 percent.

Bugging of Philadelphia mayor: Two aides to Mayor John F. Street said his staff was tipped off last fall about an FBI bug that had been placed in his office, contradicting earlier statements by the city's top police official and mayoral advisers who said they knew nothing about the listening device before it was found.

Installed in mid-September as part of an anti-corruption probe, the bug was found Oct. 7 by police who had been ordered to sweep the mayoral suite by Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson.

The tip apparently came first to Street's



California wildfires: The Geysers fire is viewed in the distance off Highway 128, near the Santa Angelina Ranch in the Mayamcas Mountains of northeast Sonoma County, Calif. The Sonoma County fire, which started Friday near The Geysers, the world's largest geothermal power facility, destroyed 11 homes and threatened wineries and hundreds of other residences.

communication director, Barbara Grant, her attorney said Friday.

Natwar Singh.

World

West Bank barrier: Israel began construction Sunday of a section of its separation barrier in the southern West Bank, days after Palestinian suicide bombers carried out an attack from the area.

Israeli security officials confirmed that work started on a 20-mile stretch of barrier southwest of Hebron.

Meanwhile, Palestinian gunmen seized the local government offices in a southern Gaza town for several hours Sunday, demanding that the Palestinian Authority do more to help families left homeless by an Israeli military operation last week, witnesses and militants said.

The militants left the Khan Younis governor's office after receiving "concrete promises" that the problem will be solved soon, a gunman told The Associated Press.

India-Pakistan talks: India and Pakistan opened high-level talks Sunday aimed at solving their decades-old dispute over Kashmir with Pakistan denying it arms and trains a separatist insurgency in the region and accusing India of human rights abuses there. The war of words over Kashmir — the cause of two major armed conflicts between the nuclear-armed rivals — threatened to complicate the wide-ranging talks between Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshed Kasuri and his Indian counterpart,

Freed Malaysian leader: Several thousand supporters of newly freed former deputy leader Anwar Ibrahim brought Malaysia's main airport terminal to a standstill in a potent reminder of the charismatic sway he holds over the country.

The crowds overwhelmed airport security as they surged toward Anwar's gold-colored Mercedes-Benz when he arrived for a flight to Germany, where he will undergo back surgery for an injury suffered partly during a police beating six years ago.

Darfur crisis: Sudan's foreign minister said his country does not object to increased numbers of foreign cease-fire monitors, plus troops to protect them, being deployed to crisis-ridden Darfur. Mustafa Osman Ismail's comments on Saturday follow U.S. calls on his government to allow more than 3,000 troops enter Darfur, something which Khartoum has yet to sanction.

War on terror

Australian Gitmo detainees: Australia will urge the United States to tighten legal procedures governing the trials of two Australian terror suspects detained at a U.S. military base in Cuba, the government said Sunday in an apparent about-face on the issue. Prime Minister John Howard has long rejected calls for David Hicks and Mamdouh Habib to be returned to Australia for trial.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Net, wild Typhoon Songda socks Okinawa

Sasebo next in path; forecasters: 'Take storm seriously'

By DAVID ALLEN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Typhoon Songda slammed across Okinawa on Sunday with winds exceeding 160 mph at its center, stranding tourists and causing isolated power outages.

The storm center passed within 12 miles of Kadena Air Base at 7:30 p.m., according to the 18th Weather Flight. Winds of 58 mph or greater were expected until 9 a.m. Monday.

The storm was forecast to hit the Sasebo area Tuesday evening, with Sasebo Naval Base residents being warned to expect the strongest winds in 60 years.

"The strongest winds we had on Kadena were gusts of 68 knots (78 mph)," said Tech Sgt. Damon Madison, a forecaster with the 18th Weather Flight. "Just before landfall, the storm took a hard right and right over the neck of the island to the north, around Nago."

The 160 mph winds were recorded near the eye wall, which just missed Kadena and central Okinawa, Madison said.

No major damage was reported by prefectural police as of Sunday evening. Five injuries were reported.

A police spokesman said a 43-year-old man in Okinawa City was injured when he was struck in the head with a large sheet of plywood as he checked for damage at a construction site Sunday morning. And a 56-year-old woman in Naha sustained broken ribs when she fell after being smacked by a door blown open by a strong gust of wind.

Damage estimates had not been made on U.S. military bases on the island Sunday night. Scattered power outages were reported in family housing areas on Kadena Air Base.

A spokesman for the Okinawa Meteorological Observatory said Typhoon Songda, the

third major typhoon to pass by Okinawa in as many weeks, is one of the strongest to hit the island in the last 30 years. More than 3 inches of rain fell as of 8 p.m. Sunday, according to the 18th Weather Flight. He predicted Songda would dump about 11 inches of rain on the island.

Prefectural officials said all international and domestic flights were canceled at Naha International Airport, stranding thousands of passengers, according to airport officials. In all, about 263 flights were canceled.

Also, all bus service and the monorail in Naha were halted and the Okinawa Toll Road, Tomari Bridge in Naha, and some low-lying roads were closed.

Some 9,400 homes throughout the island prefecture were without power as of 8 p.m. Sunday as Songda, named for a river in northern Vietnam, passed through the Ryukyus.

The Okinawa Meteorological Observatory announced that the typhoon could be the strongest storm to hit Okinawa since 1972, when the prefecture was returned to Japan and began to keep its own records.

The storm caused cancellation of all Labor Day events on U.S. military bases on the island and the 48th Annual All-Island Eisa Festival in Okinawa City.

Also canceled was a planned protest rally at Okinawa International University sponsored by the city of Ginowan to protest a Marine helicopter's crash into the campus administration building Aug. 13. A city official said the rally, expected to draw thousands of demonstrators, has been rescheduled for next Sunday.

Songda, the 18th tropical storm in the region this season, was heading due west toward Taiwan when it suddenly changed course and turned to the north as it hit the

Quakes rattle western Japan

TOKYO — Two strong earthquakes, one magnitude 6.9 and the second magnitude 7.3, rattled western Japan within hours of each other Sunday night, injuring 14 people, shaking buildings in Tokyo and triggering tsunami waves.

The first quake, with a 6.9-magnitude quake, struck shortly after 7 p.m. Kyodo

weakening part of a high-pressure ridge. The Joint Typhoon Warning Center forecast the storm would curve further to the north, coming within 20 miles of Sasebo by Tuesday afternoon, with winds weakening to about 110 mph.

Sasebo Naval Base in southwestern Kyushu announced TCOR 3 as of 3 p.m. Sunday, just a few hours before Okinawa was in line to feel Songda's worst.

Forecasters with Sasebo's Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment predicted this typhoon would arrive over Sasebo with a wind speed not seen in decades, much the same forecast as last week, as Typhoon Chaba approached.

"Confidence is extremely high that Typhoon Songda will pass in the vicinity of western Kyushu," the Sasebo forecast reported. "It is too early to determine whether or not Songda will pass east or west of Sasebo, which will mean the difference of 46 mph or greater in observed winds."

"Based on the current warning ... Take this storm very seriously as it has the potential to produce the strongest winds observed in Sasebo in over 60 years," the forecast bluntly stated.

As of Sunday night, forecasters were predicting the worst of the typhoon would pass Sasebo between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tuesday,

News reported that five were hurt in the first temblor.

The second temblor, of magnitude 7.3, struck about five hours later. Public broadcaster NHK reported nine people were injured.

Tsunami waves triggered by seismic activity were recorded along the Pacific Coast, the largest being 3 feet high.

From The Associated Press

with sustained winds of 93 mph and gusts up to 123 mph.

After passing western Kyushu, the typhoon is predicted to continue northeast over the Sea of Japan, possibly causing heavier-than-usual wind and rain in Iwakuni. Possibly late in the week, it could pass to the north in Misawa.

The storm is predicted to lose intensity quickly as it interacts with land and cooler waters, according to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Hawaii.

Songda came just a week after Typhoon Chaba, which bypassed Okinawa to the north but struck the Japanese main islands, killing at least 13 people. A week before that, Typhoon Aere passed to the south of Okinawa and slashed across northern Taiwan, where rescuers still search for people lost in floods and landslides.

Five major typhoons have battered portions of the northwest Pacific in the past month, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency.

And No. 6 is on the way: Typhoon Sarika, the Cambodian word for a songbird, has formed in the western Mariana Islands and may approach Okinawa by the weekend.

Chiomi Sumida and Greg Tyley contributed to this report.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@stripes.odsmil

Misawa air show draws crowd but is hurt by clouds

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The planning for Sunday's Misawa Air Festival began earnestly in March, with both American and Japanese organizers managing to draw more than 40 aircraft for the static and aerial displays.

It was to be a special show to celebrate Japan Air Self-Defense Force's 50th anniversary.

The weekend began with much promise. Jets streaked across the skies of Misawa Saturday on a sunny, mostly clear day practicing their maneuvers, and eager Japanese festival-goers spent the night outside the base perimeter in campers and tents.

But Mother Nature wasn't playing along. A low, dense cloud cover lingered throughout the day, forcing most of the aerial demonstration teams to cancel.

Devin McIntosh, a Defense Department civilian and husband of Tech Sgt. Linda McIntosh, has spent 11 years on and off at Misawa — and he wasn't surprised by the dismal weather.

"I'm starting to think we're cursed," he said, with his three boys. "Whenever we try to do fireworks or an air show, it gets cloudy."

But the McIntosh family still will be invited to see the some of the military's finest planes lined up on the south ramp of the runway and mingle with Japanese nationals.



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

About 200,000 people were expected at Sunday's Misawa Air Festival, hosted by the U.S. Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force; some estimates put the crowd at 250,000. Due to low cloud cover, most of the high-flying aerial demonstrations were canceled or modified.

"I think it's beautiful," McIntosh said. "I like all the people coming on the base. It gives them a chance to see what we're doing here."

The show, say base officials, gives JASDF and U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy aircraft a chance to showcase their capabilities, which is intended to support recruiting and retention, demonstrate pre-

paredness and promote positive community and international relations.

Organizers expected about 200,000 people from across northern Japan; some estimates put the crowd at 250,000.

Seizo Takahashi drove five hours from Miyagi Prefecture to attend his first Misawa Air Festival.

"The Misawa air show is very famous, I think," he said. "I like airplanes."

A few planes still took to the air, some putting on modified demonstrations or fly-bys.

There was plenty to do and see when the skies were quiet. Amateur photographers had a heyday taking pictures of the planes

parked on the runway. The lineup included blue and white JASDF Blue Impulse jets, a cavernous C-17 from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., and the Navy's newest fighter, an F/A-18 Super Hornet.

Navy Cmdr. Mike Scarry and his family were parked near a Navy P-3 Orion. Scarry said that's his favorite plane. "I ride in them" for a living, he said.

More than 120 vendors sold everything from squadron memorabilia — such as uniform patches and T-shirts — to American and Japanese food. The Anthony's Pizza booth fired up 11 ovens, prepared to sell 4,500 pizzas, said food court manager Jerome Melillo.

Crystal Marryjo, managing sales for the base's Hispanic Heritage club, baked 700 of the club's 260 cakes over the weekend.

"We had a booth at American Day and sold out of 100 cakes the first day," she said.

Vendors from private organizations paid \$100 to run a booth, said Maj. Mike Frey, air festival project officer. The base uses the money to cover air show costs, including about \$4,000 for refreshments, a welcome party for air crew members and other miscellaneous costs.

More than 600 military members either were assigned or volunteered to work the show, collecting money from the large crowd control and providing first aid.

E-mail Jennifer H. van at: svanjp@stripes.odsmil

New buildings reduce crowding in classrooms

Kindergartners at Yokota schools get new facilities

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota's kindergartners are about to tackle one of life's most exciting, yet intimidating moments: the all-important first day of school.

To ease the transition, base officials have built a pair of spiffy, brand new buildings for them — additions to Yokota East and Yokota West elementary schools that feature self-contained bathrooms, kitchen units, extra storage and magnetic walls on all sides.

They're to move in Tuesday, eight days later than other students around the Pacific, following a week of home visits by teachers and orientation sessions with parents inside the new facilities. Yokota East will welcome five kindergarten classes; Yokota West is to usher in three. Both have an extra vacant room at their disposal.

They were designed especially for kindergarten classes, said Yokota West principal Lee Kirsch. "These were built to bring us up to standard with larger classrooms as a byproduct, it will alleviate overcrowding. Any time you can get four to six new classrooms, it's a breath of fresh air."

Yokota East began the school year with a student population of 626, said assistant principal Laurel Eisinger. Enrollment at Yokota West is 438.

The new structures, which totaled about \$3 million, are the direct result of a Defense Department mandate in the late 1990s to implement a full-day kindergarten program and reduce the teacher-pupil ratio in grades 1-3 from 23 to 18 students, officials said.

The initiative was phased in slowly on military installations around the world.

"Facilities were a major handicap for many communities," Kirsch said.

Beautification effort

Judging in this month's Quarters/Yard Beautification Contest at Camp Zama, Japan, will continue through Sept. 14, officials said. Awards will be given on Sept. 16.

Call DSN 263-5550 for more information.

Zama family classes

The Army Family Team Building Program at Camp Zama, Japan, will be offering Levels I, II



JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Yokota West Elementary School Principal Lee Kirsch, top center, greets parents with an orientation about the new classrooms built during the summer for kindergarten classes. The rooms meet requirements of the DOD mandate for full-day kindergarten including toilets, doors connecting various classrooms for group activities, cooking facilities, age-appropriate play areas and larger space.

sch said. "This gives us the facilities to implement the program fully. It helps us across the board. ... This gives us room to expand. It gets us out of closets for offices and frees up space from old rooms that were used for kindergarten classes."

"It's going to make life a lot more pleasant here."

The additions are nothing like the trailers typically used in the United States to ease overcrowding in schools.

They have all the requirements to meet the DOD mandate, Kirsch said, including toilets,

doors connecting various classrooms for group activities, cooking facilities, age-appropriate play areas and larger space.

"Oftentimes, they had to work in substandard square footage," he said. "Now, it's all within class-

room operations. That cuts down significantly on the amount of time teachers need to take students to the bathroom or shift classes to a kitchen facility."

Yokota East Elementary School principal Lillian Hiyana said the structure also has a science room for investigative experiments.

"The new kindergarten building is a wonderful structure to house our students," she said. "For the first time in many years, all kindergarten classes will be contained in one building. This enables the teachers to collaborate more closely for better teaching."

The U.S. military funded part of the mandate early on in an effort to launch a full day of school for kindergartners, he said. Now, it's paid entirely by Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

Yokota schools have conducted a full day of kindergarten instruction since 2002, said Raymond Kishaba, resident engineer for the Japan District's U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "It took a while to get the funding for the initial facilities," he added.

The contract was awarded to

the OHKI Corporation a year ago, Kishaba said, and construction ended Aug. 16.

The buildings officially are designated as temporary facilities, said 2nd Lt. Pete Hernandez, the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron's Japan Facilities Improvement Program chief. A plan exists to build permanent buildings, funded by the Japanese government, before the end of the decade.

"We'll get up to five years of use in the temporary buildings," Kishaba said. "The GJO facilities-improvement procedure is quite a long process and we were able to develop an interim solution. The buildings are temporary, and can be disassembled and moved, but they meet all the safety, functionality and durability requirements the children de-

serve."


Officials say the permanent buildings will provide educators and students with even more features, such as additional computers, art facilities and a preschool disabilities classroom.

At this point, however, it's the temporary setups that are drawing rave reviews from teachers.

"We are so thrilled," Eisinger said. "We have more space to work in, and that will make life easier for our teachers. But more importantly, it will benefit the students using the new rooms."

Added Kirsch, "It's paradise — everyone's dream. People go out there and 'oh' and 'ah' about them. We're very happy for the teachers and students."

E-mail Vince Little at: little@pstrips.osd.mil



Yokota International Christian Assembly

(Yokota Christian Center)
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Children's Church (English, Japanese) 10:45am
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Youth Akoya Service
Home Fellowship Groups (every 1st & 3rd Sunday) 1:00pm
6:00pm

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Ladies Night Out (2nd Tues of month)


WEDNESDAY
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Adult Bible Study
Youth, Total Singers, and Missionettes.


THURSDAY
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Charismatic Service (3rd Friday of month)

SATURDAY
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Youth Breakfast & Training

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(returning Sept. 19, 2004)





and III classes leading up to Instructor Training this fall and needs volunteers to help, Army Community Service officials said.

The first APTB session is slated from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday in Building 402.

Call DSN 263-8327 for more information.

Bodybuilding contest

The Camp Zama Bodybuilding Competition is set for from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Community Cultural Center.

Monica Brant, 1998 Miss Fitness Olympia, will be the event's guest of honor.

Call Joe Kumzak at DSN 263-4042 for more information.

Instructors needed

The Community Cultural Center at Camp Zama, Japan, needs instructors to teach Taiko drum, ballet, violin and piano.

Those interested should visit the Community Cultural Center or call DSN 263-3939 for more information.

From staff reports

1,100 U.S. forces injured in 'intense' August

Number of wounded soldiers, Marines highest since war in Iraq began

BY KARL VICK

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — About 1,100 U.S. soldiers and Marines were wounded in Iraq during August, by far the highest combat injury toll for any month since the war began and an indication of the intensity of battles flaring in urban areas.

U.S. medical commanders say the sharp rise in battlefield injuries reflects more than three weeks of fighting by one Marine and two Army battalions in the southern city of Najaf. At the same time, U.S. units frequently faced combat in a sprawling Shiite Muslim slum in Baghdad and in the Sunni cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Samarra, all of which remain under the control of insurgents two months after the transfer of political authority.

"They were doing battlefield urban operations in four places at one time," said Lt. Col. Albert Maas, operations officer for the 2nd Medical Brigade, which oversees U.S. combat hospitals in Iraq. "It's like working in downtown Detroit. You're going literally building to building."

The sharp rise in wounded was,

for the first time, accompanied by a far less steep climb in battlefield fatalities. Since the start of the war in March 2003, 979 U.S. forces have died in Iraq and almost 7,000 have been wounded. Until last month, however, the monthly tallies of fatalities and wounded rose and fell roughly proportionally.

In August, 66 U.S. service personnel were killed in Iraq, according to the Defense Department. The toll was the highest since May, when 80 fatalities were recorded. But it was well below the 135 U.S. combat deaths in April, when a sporadic guerrilla war that had largely been confined to the so-called Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad spread to cities across the previously quiescent Shiite Muslim belt in southern Iraq.

Commanders said they had no immediate concrete explanation for why the number of wounded increased so sharply without a comparable, parallel rise in combat deaths.

"All I know is I've got more patients here," said Capt. Ryck Beitz, commander of the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad, which admitted 425 patients last month, a new high.

"July was just dull, and it was like: Everything's going to be all right. And then Najaf fired up, and it was just like nothing had ever changed."

Capt. Neil Taufen

Emergency room technician at the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad

One possible explanation lay in the brown ones units brought to the fight in crowded city centers. In Najaf, for example, two of the three U.S. battalions squaring off in close quarters against a Shiite militia were categorized as "heavy armored." Army officers said their Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles not only offer substantial protection from incoming fire, but also answered with immediate and overwhelming large-caliber salvos.

"We've been given the best tools in the world for waging war," said Maj. Tim Karcher of the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Cavalry Division's 7th Regiment. In two weeks of almost constant combat, the heavily armored battalion sustained several injuries, but not a single fatality, as it fought its way through Najaf's crowded old city.

Lives surely were also saved by the proximity of the fighting to a nearby combat hospital; the forward surgical station at Babylon is a short Black Hawk helicopter hop from Najaf.

Maj. Dellone Pascascio, who compiles tallies of U.S. wounded across Iraq, said injuries sustained in conventional fighting may tend to be slightly less severe than those inflicted by IEDs, the improvised explosive devices planted along roadsides that continue to kill and maim U.S. forces by spraying shrapnel upward.

There also were indications that troops suffered more severe wounds in August than in previous months.

At the Baghdad hospital, staff members are accustomed to seeing the most severely injured soldiers and Marines. The hospital, the only in Iraq where the military's brain and eye surgeons work, handles the worst head wounds. Normally, perhaps half of the patients who come to the emergency room qualify as "acute" cases, a term that indicates severity and urgency.

"A soldier who comes in and is almost bleeding to death will require more care than someone who is just shot with a bullet," Beitz explained.

In August, however, the rate of acute cases jumped to three of four ER patients.

"It was intense," said Lt. Col. Greg Kidwell, who oversees the emergency room at the hospital.

Capt. Neil Taufen, an emergency room physician, said the pace was all the more striking because it came after a quiet stretch.

"July was just dull, and it was like: Everything's going to be all right. And then Najaf fired up, and it was just like nothing had ever changed," said Taufen, of Fort Sill, Okla.

Najaf and the neighboring town of Kufa, about 90 miles south of Baghdad, have been quiet since a

peace deal was brokered in late August by Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani. Last week, an informal cease-fire also took hold in Sadr City, the Shiite slum that is the main stronghold of junior cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and his Mahdi Army militia, which fought in Najaf.

But U.S. forces continued to clash with Sunni Muslim insurgents and foreign-born fighters west and north of Baghdad. Twenty-six Marines were killed during August in Anbar province, which takes in Fallujah and Ramadi and extends across the western desert to the Syrian border.

Insurgents hold sway in both cities and routinely attack U.S. patrols.

"It's always kind of a smoldering fight out there," Kidwell said.

Parts of Baghdad also remain combat zones.

Propped on pillows in a ward of the Baghdad combat hospital Saturday afternoon, Spc. Christopher Riang, 19, wore a zipper of surgical staples up his abdomen in a grisly surprise the night before off the capital's hostile Hafa Street.

"I yelled 'grenade!' and made sure the Iraq translator took off," he said, describing the overnight ambush that left him with a belly full of steel shards. "Then I took off. I guess I couldn't outrun the grenade."

The interpreter also was injured, as were four other 1st Cavalry soldiers caught in the alley when grenades began raining down.

"Almost everybody took shrapnel," said Capt. Chris Ford, the company commander. Three soldiers were injured lightly enough to return to duty after treatment, as do about 45 percent of U.S. forces wounded in Iraq. Two others needed medical evacuation. The interpreter went home.

Obviously, it does matter

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At Fussa Gate: Left on 16 to light. Turn right. Take next left. Church on left.

By BASSEM MROUE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi militant group appealed Sunday to an influential Sunni Muslim organization for a *fatwa*, or religious edict, on whether the kidnapping of foreigners who work for occupation forces is acceptable under Islam.

A spokesman for the Association of Muslim Scholars said its clerics will study the militants' request, saying the issue is "not easy" and needs "profound study."

The militants' appeal came as a Turkish transport company and a Kuwaiti firm that contracted it announced Sunday they have stopped doing business in Iraq in an attempt to secure the release of a Turkish driver taken hostage by Iraqi militants and under a threat of beheading.

In a fresh kidnapping report, an Iraqi militant group said it has abducted four Jordanian truck driv-

ers who it claims were delivering items for U.S. forces in Iraq, according to a tape obtained by the Al-Jazeera TV station.

Also Sunday, a slain Egyptian kidnap victim was found near Beiji, about 150 miles north of Baghdad, with his hands bound and signs of a beating on his corpse, said Iraqi Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin.

The Arab League's 16-month insurgency has turned to kidnapping to force coalition forces and contractors from the country. More than 100 foreigners have been abducted since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 and many have been executed.

The Arab television station Al-Arabiya on Sunday aired a videotape showing a masked man identifying himself as a member of the group "Holders of the Black Banners," reading a statement seeking a *fatwa* from the Association of Muslim Scholars in Iraq.

The militants asked whether Islam permits the kidnapping and killing of foreigners who work for occupation forces, saying the association should "issue a legal *fatwa* defining this issue, and we are ready to abide by it."

A number of militant insurgent groups are believed behind most of the abductions, and it was not known whether other groups would also issue a *fatwa*.

The French government, meanwhile, huddled in crisis talks over the fate of two French reporters held hostage by a separate group in Iraq and said it was still hopeful the pair would be released.

In the past week, militants have killed an Italian *fatwa* and 12 Nepalese workers, while seven truckers from India, Kenya and Egypt were released after their Kuwaiti employer paid a \$500,000 ransom. A video last week also showed three Turks being killed by their captors.

Reports of top Saddam official's arrest conflict

BY DANICA KIRKA

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi authorities claimed on Sunday to have captured Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the most wanted member of Saddam Hussein's ousted dictatorship, but there was confusion over the report, as the Iraqi defense minister said word of his arrest was "baseless."

Also on Sunday, a mortar attack killed two U.S. soldiers and left 16 wounded — one critically — at a base west of the Iraqi capital. Maj. Richard Spiegel of the Army's 13th Corps Support Command said the mortar barrage slammed into Logistics Base Seitz, on Baghdad's western outskirts. Names of the dead and wounded were being withheld pending next-of-kin notification. The soldiers killed and wounded all belonged to the support command.

U.S. Maj. Neal O'Brien of the Tikrit-based 1st Infantry Division said he could not confirm al-Douri was captured. A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Baghdad also said he had no information about an arrest.

There have been incorrect reports of al-Douri's arrest in the past as U.S. and Iraqi forces hunt for the man who was once one of Saddam's most senior deputies. Sunday's report centered on a raid near al-Douri's hometown of Adwar, north of Baghdad. Iraq's top information official said al-Douri was seized while receiving medical treatment at a clinic near Adwar and that DNA tests were under way to confirm his identity. Al-Douri reportedly suffers from leukemia, and needs blood transfusions.

"We are sure he is Izzat Ibrahim," information official Ibrahim Janabi said. "He was arrested in a clinic in Malkool near Tikrit and Adwar and 60 percent of the DNA test has finished."

A Defense Ministry spokesman, Saleh Sarhan, also told the U.S.-funded Alhurra television station that al-Douri had been captured.

Later, however, the Iraqi defense minister, Hazem Shaalan, said in an interview with Lebanon's Al Hayat-LBC television that reports that Izzat Ibrahim was captured were "baseless."

"We don't have any information on this subject or on the reports that allegedly came out from the defense ministry," he said. "There are search operations by the national guards troops and multinational troops going on during which some terrorist positions were shelled. There were rumors that Izzat al-Douri or someone who resembles him were in that position, but we don't have any information on Izzat specifically," he said.

U.S. Maj. Neal O'Brien of the Tikrit-based 1st Infantry Division said he could not confirm the report and U.S.-led forces issued a statement saying he was not in U.S. custody. A senior U.S. diplo-

Two GIs killed in mortar attack west of Baghdad

mat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Americans had no information to indicate that al-Douri had been arrested.

Iraqi Minister of State Qassim Dawoud also claimed that al-Douri was arrested and said 150 men defending him also were detained.

Al-Douri, once the vice chairman of the Baath Party's Revolutionary Command Council, is the most prominent member of Saddam's inner circle who had not been captured or killed. U.S. mili-

tary officials believe he played an organizing role in the 16-month-old insurgency.

He is No. 6 on the U.S. military's list of 55 most-wanted figures from Saddam's regime — the king of clubs in the deck of cards — and U.S. forces have offered a \$10 million bounty for his arrest. Forty-four of the people on the list already have been killed or captured.

Saddam was arrested on Dec. 13, hiding in a tiny underground bunker near Adwar.

Dawoud, the minister of state, said the trial of Saddam and other indicted officials from his regime would start "within a few weeks ... before the end of this year and before (Iraqi) elections," which are planned for January.

Saddam so far has had seven preliminary charges filed against him, including gassing thousands of Kurds in 1988, the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, the suppression of 1991 revolts by Kurds and Shiites, the murders of religious and political leaders and the mass dis-

placement of Kurds in the 1980s. Eleven others have also been charged, including former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz; Ali Hasan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali"; and former Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan.

Late last year, al-Douri's wife and daughter were detained.

Earlier this year, U.S. forces conducted numerous raids in and around the northern city of Samarra searching for him.

During raids on Jan. 14 in Samarra, American forces arrested four of al-Douri's nephews who they suspected were helping al-Douri move to avoid capture.



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Russians begin burials of school siege victims

BY BURT HERMAN
The Associated Press

BESLAN, Russia — Funeral processions snaked through this grief-wracked town as relatives buried the first victims of the school siege in southern Russia in rows of freshly dug graves Sunday, while frantic parents still searched for missing children two days after the crisis erupted into violence that left more than 350 people dead.

Wails of mourning women echoed from courtyards where families made ritual meals and from a football field-sized plot of land next to the cemetery in this small city in the North Ossetia region, where men dug graves as surveyors across the road marked out new plots with wooden stakes and string.

"When a person goes to the cemetery for a burial, it's sad, but nothing like this — when you dig

graves for your children," said Anzor Kudziyev, 25, a volunteer gravedigger who helped prepare the field for the burials.

The paroxysm of violence left few families untouched in this tight-knit mostly industrial town, whose population of 30,000 belies a village atmosphere in which many leave their doors unlocked. Most people in Beslan had a relative, friend or neighbor killed or wounded.

There were conflicting official reports of the death toll, apparently confused in part because of the large number of body fragments collected at the school.

North Ossetia's health minister Alexander Soplevko said that almost 340 people were dead, while his deputy Taimuraz Revazov said 324 were confirmed dead. Interfax quoted regional government spokesman Lev Dzugayev as saying the toll stood at 338, but he later said in televised comments that the number was 335.

The regional health ministry said 180 people were missing after the three-day hostage crisis, which began when armed attackers raided School No. 1 on the first day of classes, seized students, teachers and parents who brought their children to opening-day ceremonies.

Russian media speculated that some of the missing could be among the wounded who were brought to various hospitals in North Ossetia, unconscious or in too deep a state of shock — or just too young — to identify themselves.

Also, many of the dead still have not been identified — a process that could take a long time. The health ministry said 207 of the dead had been identified.

More than 700 people needed medical help after the crisis, and officials said 386 remained hospitalized Sunday in North Ossetia, including 184 children, the Interfax news agency reported. Several badly wounded victims have been taken to Moscow hospitals.

As some residents buried their dead, others were still searching for relatives. Many expressed doubt over the government accounts of the tragedy's magnitude, a skepticism stoked by severe initial understatement by officials of the number of hostages, which exceeded 1,100.



Source: ESRI

Questions also remained about the identity of the hostage-takers.

Russian officials said several of them were from Arab countries, but little information substantiating that has been released — and about the elites leading up to the chaotic climax of the crisis.

North Ossetia's Emergency Situations Minister Boris Dzugoyev said Saturday that 35 attackers were killed. However, Russian Deputy Prosecutor General Sergei Fridinsky said Sunday that according to the latest information, 32 terrorists had been involved and the bodies of 30 of them had been found, Interfax reported.

Three suspects were detained in Beslan on Saturday, Interfax reported, citing unnamed law enforcement sources.

A shaken President Vladimir Putin went on national television Sunday to make a rare admission of Russian weakness in the face of an "all-out war" by terrorists. He told the Russian people that they must mobilize against terrorism and promised wide-ranging reforms to strengthen security forces and purge corruption.



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Pope John Paul II beatifies 3 more Catholics

200,000 cheer on ailing pontiff at hilltop shrine

BY VICTOR L. SIMPSON

The Associated Press

LORETO, Italy — A frail Pope John Paul II put three more Roman Catholics on the road to sainthood during a visit to a hilltop shrine Sunday, struggling at times but cheered on by 200,000 pilgrims.

EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Japanese yen (Sept. 7) | 107.00 |
| South Korean won (Sept. 4) | 1,120.00 |
| Euro | \$1.249 |
| British pound | \$1.84 |
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.377 |
| British pound | \$1.779 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.298 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.187 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 6.20 |
| Euro | \$1.261 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.796 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 301.75 |
| Iceland (Krona) | 72.605 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 4.5106 |
| Japan (Yen) | 110.60 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 2.947 |
| Norway (Krone) | 6.829 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 56.86 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7501 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3643 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,149.10 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 1.269 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 41.53 |
| Turkey (Lira) | 1,515.52 |

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military bank facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the Swiss franc, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.

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| New York Merc close | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Gold | \$400.50 |
| Silver | \$6.55 |

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 4.50 |
| Discount rate | 2.50 |
| Federal funds market rate | 1.50 |
| 3-month bill | 5.00 |
| 3-year bond | 5.44 |

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

He seemed drained, seated in a wheeled throne in glittering green vestments, at the end of the three-hour ceremony in 86-degree heat.

The large crowd broke into applause when he told them: "The pope greets you, supports you and blesses you from the heart."

The 84-year-old pontiff, who has Parkinson's disease and crippling knee and hip ailments, read his homily with difficulty.

He left one portion to be read by an aide.

But he seemed stronger than during his trip to Lourdes, France, three weeks ago.

John Paul did not speak of the Russian school tragedy.

But a young man read a prayer — "for the dead, for the children and for all the innocent victims."

Hundreds of people were killed in violence at a hostage standoff at the school in southern Russia.

Organizers and police said at least 200,000 pilgrims showed up at Italy's leading Marian shrine, which overlooks the Adriatic Sea south of Ancona.

Security was tight, with police closing down roads into Loreto hours before the pope's arrival by Italian military helicopter from his summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

The trip was arranged around the beatification of three members — a Spaniard and two Italians — of the Christian organization of Charismatic Action.

John Paul has difficulty walking and standing, and aides wheel him around during his public appearances.

Still, he has insisted on keeping up his travels, although Loreto could be the last trip of the year.

He has already visited Switzer-



Pope John Paul II kisses the relics of Alberto Marvelli and Pina Suriano, two lay Italians, and Pedro Tarres y Claret, a Spanish priest-physician, beatified during a solemn Mass, near the shrine of Loreto, Italy.

land and France this year, and although he has been invited to Istanbul, Turkey, by an Orthodox leader, the Vatican has given no confirmation that the visit will take place.

It was the fifth trip to Loreto, Italy's leading Marian shrine, of his nearly 26-year papacy.

Beatification is the last formal step before possible sainthood.

Sunday's ceremony raises to 1,333 the number of Catholics John Paul has beatified, more than done by all his predecessors combined over the past 50 years.

The pope has sought to give Catholics role models, and he said Sunday that "there is no greater freedom than that of love" for Christ, "no greater brotherhood than that born from Christ's cross."

Those beatified Sunday lived in the 20th century: a Spanish priest-physician, Pedro Tarres y Claret, and two lay Italians, Alberto Marvelli and Pina Suriano.

Mass marks anniversary of Calcutta nun's death

The Associated Press

CALCUTTA, India — Nearly 100 people gathered for a special Sunday Mass to pay tribute to Mother Teresa on the seventh anniversary of her death.

Nuns in indigo-trimmed white saris and volunteers decorated Mother Teresa's marbled tomb with garlands and red roses lit candles and incense sticks and chanted hymns.

Traditionally, the Roman Catholic Church doesn't permit Mass commemorating a

person on Sundays. But the Vatican made an exception for Mother Teresa, who was beatified in October.

Born Agnes Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in what is now Skopje, Macedonia, Mother Teresa died at age 87 on Sept. 5, 1997, in Calcutta, the capital of India's West Bengal state, where she spent most of her life.

The Missionaries of Charity, the order Mother Teresa founded, runs centers for impoverished people worldwide. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.



Sister Nirmala, superior general of Missionaries of Charity, prays at the tomb of Mother Teresa on the seventh anniversary of her death at Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, India. Mother Teresa died in 1997 — at age 87 — in Calcutta, where she is buried.

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

IBM recalls adapters

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — IBM Corp. is recalling some 553,000 notebook computer adapters sold worldwide because they can overheat and pose fire and shock hazards, the company and the government said last week.

IBM is not aware of any injuries caused by the 56-watt AC power adapters but has received at least six reports of overheating, which can damage the circuit board. The Consumer Product Safety Commission said.

Most of the adapters accompanied IBM ThinkPad 1 Series, 390 and 240 Series and S Series note-

books. The rectangular product has three hollow pins on one end that connect to a cord, and the IBM logo and the number 02K6549 appear on the label.

The recall includes about 225,000 adapters sold across the United States with ThinkPad computers by electronics and computer stores, IBM's Web site, mail-order catalogues, phone orders and resellers from January 1995 to August 2000. IBM said other adapters were shipped in the same months to Asian Pacific countries, excluding Japan.

Visit www.AdapterProgram.com for information on free replacements.

Man wanted for selling killer liquor

The Associated Press

MULTAN, Pakistan — Police seized dozens of bottles of illegal homemade liquor and were seeking the man who brewed it after at least 27 people who drank the hooch died in eastern Pakistan, an official said Sunday.

Late Saturday, police raided the illicit brewer's home, but he was not there, said Hamid Mukhtar Gondal, the chief of police in Multan, a major city in Punjab province.

Police officers seized about 40 bottles of homemade liquor for testing and detained two of the suspect's relatives for questioning, Gondal said.

The suspect could face a number of charges including murder,

attempted murder and the illegal sale of liquor, he said.

Sixteen people who drank the liquor Friday night subsequently fell unconscious and died in Multan's Nishtar Hospital on Saturday, said Mohammed Tayyab, a doctor at the state-run facility.

Nine more people died Saturday in nearby towns after drinking the hooch, Gondal said.

On Sunday, five more people were admitted to the Nishtar Hospital and two of them later died after showing symptoms similar to those who had drunk the tainted liquor, said Imran Rafiq, a doctor at the hospital.

The three others were in intensive care.

It wasn't clear what made the li-

quor deadly. But Niaz Baluch, the head of forensic medicine in the hospital, suspected methanol, a chemical used in paint thinners, was the culprit.

Methanol is often used in making cheap whiskey, though it is toxic, Baluch said.

He added the hospital was waiting for autopsy reports and laboratory tests to determine the exact cause of the deaths.

Muslims are banned from drinking alcohol in Pakistan, a predominantly Islamic nation, although some do in private.

Liquor smuggled from overseas is pricey, and illicit drinkers sometimes resort to homemade alcohol which is often distilled in unhygienic conditions and made using dangerous ingredients.

Vietnam GI could face charges from past

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — A military attorney has recommended charging a retired soldier in a 1967 rampage of alleged atrocities committed by U.S. troops against hundreds of civilians in Vietnam, a newspaper reported.

The Blade, which won a Pulitzer Prize for its reporting on the elite Tiger Force platoon, said in its Sunday edition that the recommendation involved retired Maj. James Hawkins, 63, a former unit commander who now lives near Orlando, Fla.

Hawkins declined to comment on the military attorney's recommendation, the newspaper said.

Army Reserve lawyer Michael Waller reviewed the original case and The Blade's series and concluded that the evidence was strong enough to return Hawkins to duty for an Article 32 hearing, the equivalent of a military grand jury, the newspaper said.

The Army has not decided whether to prosecute Hawkins, according to the newspaper, which said questions remain whether Army lawyers have the legal power to charge him.

Hawkins was among 18 former Tiger Force soldiers accused by Army investigators of crimes ranging from murder and assault to dereliction of duty during an investigation in 1971-75. The case was dropped by the Pentagon and concealed from the public until revealed by The Blade.

The most serious allegation faced by Hawkins in 1975 was the fatal shooting of an elderly carpenter in the Song Ve Valley in July 1967. Army investigators recommended in 1975 that he be charged with murder.

In an interview with The Blade in 2003, he admitted killing the elderly man because "he was making too much noise" and might disclose the location of U.S. troops to the enemy.

Frances' fury makes slow trek through Florida

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

STUART, Fla. — Hurricane Frances weakened but still pounded Florida with high wind and heavy rain Sunday after it smashed across the state's east coast, knocking out power to 4 million people, shredding roofs and uprooting trees.

Some evacuees had to flee a second time when a school's roof was partially blown off. Some 86,000 people remained in shelters as Gov. Jeb Bush warned them against venturing out to see the damage until officials say it's OK.

"I didn't think it would get this bad," Carline Cadet said as she ventured through her West Palm Beach neighborhood in rain gear. "The shutters were flapping in the wind so hard all night. It was crazy loud."

Specifics on damage and injuries will be impossible to gather until after the storm passes, said Craig Fugate, the state's director of emergency management.

The storm made landfall with top sustained winds of 105 mph, but by early afternoon it was just 1 mph above minimum hurricane strength at 75 mph. Forecasters warned that its path would take the center over the warm water of the northeastern Gulf of Mexico north of Tampa by early Monday. They said it was possible Frances would regain intensity by Monday night and hit the central Panhandle near Appalachicola.

"This is affecting the entire peninsula today, either tropical storm-force or hurricane-force winds. And then tomorrow it will be up in the panhandle, and then moving up into Georgia and Ala-



A car drives past a section of destroyed roadway near Jensen Beach, Fla., on Sunday.

bama after that," National Hurricane Center director Max Mayfield said Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation."

The eye of the storm blew ashore at Sewall's Point, just east of Stuart, around 1 a.m., and by 2 p.m. it was centered about 55 miles east of Tampa, near Lakeland in the middle of the Florida Peninsula. Frances was moving toward the west-northwest at about 9 mph, and expected to remain over the state for most of the day, dumping 8 to 12 inches of rain, with up to 20 inches in some areas.

"I wish somebody'd get out there and push it — get it over with," said 72-year-old Nedra Smith, who waited out the storm in the lobby of a Palm Bay hotel.

Frances was so big that virtually the entire state feared damage just weeks after Hurricane Charley tore through, killing 27 people and causing billions of dollars in



AP photos

High winds from Hurricane Frances blow signs and trees as the storm advances Saturday in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

damage. About 230 miles of coastline — from the Deerfield Beach area northward to Flagler Beach — remained under a hurricane warning Sunday morning. A similar-sized part of the Panhandle from the mouth of the Suwannee River to Destin on the Gulf of Mexico were also under the warning.

The storm forced the largest evacuation in state history, with 2.8 million residents ordered inland and 86,000 of them in shelters. Miami-Dade County told about 320,000 people they could return home Sunday, but the storm had shut down much of Florida, including airports and amusement parks, during the usually busy Labor Day weekend.

Airports in Miami and Fort Lauderdale reopened Sunday, but Orlando remained closed.

President Bush declared a major disaster in the counties affected by Frances, meaning residents will be eligible for federal aid.

Four people were hospitalized in Boynton Beach after breathing carbon monoxide from a generator that was running in a house. There were reports of injuries in St. Lucie County, but sheriff's spokesman Mark Weinberg said he had no details.

At least two deaths were blamed on the storm in the Bahamas, where thousands were forced from their homes.

Looting had become a problem. Police in the Orlando area said 10 thieves used a stolen car to smash into a store and steal about \$10,000 worth of clothing, and two men were arrested as they tried to steal an ATM with a chain saw. At least 10 other people were arrested for looting in Indian River County, Palm Beach County and Brevard County.

Water on the streets of Fort Pierce stood as high as the top of tires on sport utility vehicles. Downtown, a steel railroad crossing signal was twisted like a corkscrew, but buildings seemed mostly intact. In Stuart, a store facade collapsed.

At the entrance to Kennedy Space Center, a replica of the Mercury-Redstone rocket that Alan Shepard flew in to become the first American in space was knocked out of its side.

Florida Power & Light pulled crews off the streets because of the wind, leaving 4 million customers without power, spokesman Bill Swank said. Nearly all of Vero Beach, 30 miles north of Stuart, was blackened, the city's utility said.

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Muslim women walk past a booth set up at the 41st annual Islamic Society of North America convention Friday in Rosemont, Ill.

'Muslims for Bush' lobby fuels debate

Many followers feel the president's war on terror has created a bad name for religion

BY RACHEL ZOLL

The Associated Press

ROSEMONT, Ill. — They stop abruptly when they see the 5-foot-tall photo of President Bush, with "muslimsforbush.com" above his head.

Then come the outbursts. "Disgusting," said one onlooker. "Take that down," said another. At the largest annual convention of American Muslims, a pro-Bush booth has stirred anger among attendees who believe the president's actions since Sept. 11, 2001, have hurt more innocent Muslims than terrorists.

"I think President Bush has misled not only the United States, but the world," said Noor Macalee, an educator who planned to vote for Democrat John Kerry.

The display was funded by Muhammad Ali Hasan and his mother, Seema, who recently created the group "Muslims for Bush." Seema Hasan said in a phone interview that she and her husband Malik, a Colorado physician who earned his wealth in the health care industry, have donated more than \$1 million to Bush and Republican causes since the 2000 campaign.

"The reason we are doing this is that Muslims don't have a lobbyist," Seema Hasan said. "We want to be there. We are going to give contributions at the highest level."

Bush has other supporters in the Muslim community. Some are Iraqi-Americans who opposed that Saddam Hussein has been ousted.

Others are entrepreneurs who view the GOP as more friendly to business interests. And many devout Muslims prefer the Republicans' conservative stand on social issues such as gay marriage.

But many Muslims at the non-partisan Islamic Society of North America convention were not grateful for the Hasans' activism. Asma Gull Hasan, the elder Hasan's daughter, who was also at the booth, said she had expected negative remarks. However, she said she was encouraged that some passers-by had quietly told her they would vote for the president.

Surveys of U.S. Muslims indicate a majority will vote for Kerry, even though they fear he will not go far enough in repealing parts of the Patriot Act.

Cheney calls Clinton

COLUMBUS, Ga. — Vice President Dick Cheney, who has had four heart attacks, called former President Clinton on Saturday to wish him well with his upcoming heart bypass surgery.

"I just called to let him know we were thinking about him," Cheney told reporters aboard Air Force Two. "I've been through a similar experience before. The key was to have the good sense to go get checked if you thought you had a problem, which he obviously did."

Cheney, 63, said he told Clinton about having undergone a quadruple bypass 16 years ago.

"I was living proof of the wonders of modern medicine," Cheney said.

Clinton, 58, was expected to undergo heart bypass surgery as early as Monday.

Heinz Kerry hospitalized

MASON CITY, Iowa — Teresa Heinz Kerry, the wife of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, was taken to a hospital here late Saturday after complaining of an upset stomach, a spokeswoman said.

She was taken to Mercy Medical Center-North Iowa. "As a precaution, Mrs. Heinz Kerry had a series of routine tests performed and was released," said Sarah Gegenheimer, a spokeswoman for Heinz Kerry. "She is feeling better and is traveling to her home in Pittsburgh tonight as planned."

From The Associated Press

McCain plays peacemaker

Senator said both sides unfair in their campaign attacks

BY LIZ SIDOTTI

The Associated Press

ROSWELL, N.M. — John McCain tried Saturday to play peacemaker again.

The Republican said Democrat John Kerry was "unfair" when he criticized the GOP ticket as "unfit to lead the nation" and when he suggested that President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney avoided serving in Vietnam.

"John Kerry's characterization that the president is unfit for duty is unfair," said McCain, a Republican senator from Arizona.

"I categorically reject that just as I categorically reject allegations that Senator Kerry didn't serve honorably."

Kerry had lashed out at Bush after the GOP convention, where speakers criticized his Senate voting record on national security issues and argued that the Democrat was unfit to be commander in chief.

McCain, a prisoner of war for more than five years while serving in Vietnam, came to Kerry's defense last month, calling on Bush to condemn ads by the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth that questioned Kerry's Vietnam service.

"The Vietnam War was over 30 years ago. We have a war in Iraq to fight," McCain said. "President Bush served honorably. John Kerry served honorably. End of story."

On Thursday night, Kerry hit back shortly after Bush finished his convention speech, saying: "I will not have my commitment to defend this country questioned by those who refused to serve when they could have and who misled America into Iraq."

McCain, a Kerry friend but a Bush supporter, spoke with reporters while campaigning with Cheney.

Asked if Republicans have mischaracterized Kerry's positions on the military and Iraq, McCain said: "Everybody's misrepresenting each other's position. Yes, they have mischaracterized. But, yes, the Democrats have mischaracterized the Republicans as well."

McCain said while he believes that Kerry would be "a good president in every way," he believes that Bush would be "a much better president because he's proven his strength and clarity and leadership of this nation in time of crisis."

He also called the debate over Vietnam service "a distraction" that's taking away from pressing issues like the war on terror.

Stephanie Cutter, a Kerry spokeswoman, stuck by Kerry's comments.

"We agree with Senator McCain that the debate should not be about what happened 35 years ago, it should be about the state of the country today," she said. "Because of the way George Bush and Dick Cheney misled this nation into war, they are unfit to lead the country for another four years."

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TUESDAY EVENING / SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

MOVIES

• **SPORTS**

| J | 6PM | 6:30 | 7PM | 7:30 | 8PM | 8:30 | 9PM | 9:30 | 10PM | 10:30 | 11PM | 11:30 |
|----|---------|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| 6 | AFN-P | *ESPNes Pacific Report | Pin Heaven Lost and Found? Two Singaporean refugees take in Ruthie and Peter after they miss their bus. (CC) | | ** Hunter: Return to Justice! (2002) Drama! Fed Dryer, Stephanie Kammer, Sam Henning, DeDeDe McGuff's fiancé kills a homicide intruder. | | The Simpsons Take law catches up to Mother Simpson. (CC) | | Headline News | Pacific Report | The Tonight Show (Joined in Progress) | Late Show (CC) |
| 7 | ARK-Alt | (8:30) Guiding Light (CC) | General Hospital (CC) | Headline News | Judge Judy (CC) | Today: Father of the Bride; fashionable handbags. (CC) | | | Arthur (E) (CC) | Animaniacs (CC) | Liz McQuigg Scarlett Lady (CC) | All That |
| 8 | NEWS | CHN Daybreak | | The O'Reilly Factor (CC) | | Good Morning America (CC) | | | Headline News | Channel One | The Early Show (CC) | |
| 9 | SPTS | *H100 PGA Golf | | *SportsCenter | | | U.S. Open Tennis Men's and Women's Fourth Round. From the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, N.Y. (Same-day Tapes) | | | | | |
| 10 | SPEC | The Simpsons Homer becomes a food critic. (CC) | Everybody Loves Raymond Ray becomes a eulogy. (CC) | Monk Only Monk believes in a psychic who found an ex-police commissioner murdered wife. (CC) | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Griston probes the death of a well-known poker player. (CC) | The Residents Moving On Reflecting on the year. (CC) | | Friends Chandler and Phoebe dump their dates. (CC) | Seinfeld Jerry and George write series pilot. (CC) | The Daily Show (CC) | Blind Date (CC) |
| 11 | AFN-HM | Spongobeds | Rugrats (CC) | The Proud Family Amanda (CC) | Everwood "Pilot" (CC) | Sister, Sister (CC) | Sister, Sister (CC) | Sister, Sister (CC) | The Coolest Show (CC) | How Improv. (CC) | Touched by an Angel (CC) | |
| 12 | TMC | (1:15) "Local Boys" (2002) Drama! Jeremy Sumpter. A teen feels threatened by a Christian man in his mother's life. PG-13 | | ** "Shrek" (2001) Fantasy! Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy | | (1:35) "In the Army Now" (1994) Comedy! Pauli Shore, Andy Dick, Lori Petty. A hyper-spirited slacker and his pal join the Army Reserve. PG-13 | | (3:35) "The Hollywood Sign" (2001) Comedy-Drama! Tom Bergeron, Jacqueline Kim. Three has been stashed a hate to plan to inspire the world. R (CC) | | | (1:15) "Count of Women" (2001) Nastassia Kinski. A murder thinks she's made a killer on the Internet. NR | |
| 24 | PBS | Clifford the Big Red Dog Maisy runs away. (CC) | Dragon Tales "See, Peter's Tail/Head Room" (CC) (DVS) | The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC) | | New "Bates of the 2 Piece" (The battle between Boing and Looked Martin to build the Joint Strike Fighter. (CC) DVS) | | | P.O.V. "Speedy" A demolition Derby driver Jerry D. "Speedy" Jager. (N) (CC) | | Story Demons of the Continent - Alaska's | |
| 25 | SHOW | (1:30) "Good Friends" (Comedy-Drama) Danny Glover, Chevy Chase, Gregory Koberger. (N) (CC) | | ** "Step Into Liquid" (2003) Documentary! Filmmaker Bruce Brown captures surfers in action. PG (CC) | | ** "K-18: The Widemaker" (2002) Suspense! Harrison Ford, Liam Neeson, Peter Sarsgaard. A Soviet submarine's nuclear reactor develops a leak. PG-13 (CC) | | | | | American Candidate | |
| 26 | A&E | City Confidential Bomb destroys the car of Mark Hoffman, a dealer in Mormon documents. (CC) | | American Justice "Blueprints for Murder" Victims' kin ex-plushers of a guide for his men. (CC) | | Biography: Andre Agassi/ Andre Agassi. (N) (CC) | Colt Case Files "Murder Illustrated: Blood Relations, The Burring Secret, Justice Delayed" A man stands trial for a murder he allegedly committed at age 15. (CC) | | | | Crossing Jordan "Promotion: Hot Hoyt tries to solve a triple homicide. (CC) | |
| 28 | DISC | To Be Announced | | To Be Announced | | High Tech Toys | Future Tense | To Be Announced | | To Be Announced | | To Be Announced |
| 29 | TFC | (1:15) OK, Fine Whatever | | (4:45) Pipol | | Good Morning Kite (in Tagalog) | (1:15) Kumilingaling Kibang Ayon | (4:45) Masayang Tanghal Bayan | (4:45) SOC Reolice | | (1:15) Sarah... Teen | (3:35) Mad In Heaven |
| 30 | CNN-I | Larry King Live (CC) | | CNN World News | | World Sport | Business International | Asia Tonight | Biz Asia | CNN World News | World Report | Biz Asia |
| 31 | GOLF | *European PGA Golf: Open Europe Masters - Third Round. From Switzerland. | | | | | | *Golf Channel Academy | *Golf Central | *Golf Channel Academy | *Golf Central | What's in the Bag? |
| 32 | TLC | Clean Sweep: Finish it or Pitch it! Cast members pile up. (CC) | | In a Fix: Preparing a childhood home. (CC) | | Repo Men: Stealing for a Living! Repo Men's colorful possessions agents in Florida and Texas. (CC) | Overhaul! "Parts Guy" California auto parts guy's 1971 Chevrolet. (CC) | Rides "Fast Forward Fast Back" A 1976 Ford is turned into a muscle car. (CC) | | Repo Men: Stealing for a Living! Repo Men's colorful possessions agents in Florida and Texas. (CC) | | |
| 34 | TOON | Samurai Jack | Dexter's Laboratory | Justice League | Powerpuff Girls | Cartoon Cartoon | Cartoon | Cartoon | Cartoon | Cartoon | Cartoon | Cartoon |
| 35 | ANPL | The Crocodile Hunter "Wild in the USA" Releocating a cougar. (CC) | | The Planet's Funniest Animals (CC) | | The Planet's Funniest Animals (CC) | | Animal Precinct "The Hospital" A neglected canine's embedded collar must be surgically removed. (CC) | | Animal Precinct "Dangerous Dog" Owner with fighting dogs. (CC) | | King of the Jungle |
| 36 | COM | Late Night Barbara Walters; Grant Roszkowski; Grant-Lee Phillips. (CC) | | The Daily Show Robert Smith. (CC) | | Crossroads American voting. (N) (CC) | | Mad TV "Cabana Chat With Dole Wetworth" "A Pack of Girls Now," commercial parodies. (CC) | | Chappelle's Show "Crank Yankers" Gladys calls out about church deacons. (N) (CC) | | Tough Crowd (N) (CC) |
| 40 | NGC-A | Treasure Seekers: Lost Cities of the Incas" (CC) | | Toyota World of Wildlife "Perdido" (CC) | | Planet Wild | | Wildlife Destinations "Tiger deaths" The tiger deaths. (CC) | | National Geographic "In Search of the Jaguar" A scientist who's working to save the jaguar from extinction. (CC) | | Dangerous Jobs "Demolition Squad" Experts use explosives to demolish buildings. (CC) |
| 42 | SPKE | Real TV (CC) | | Real TV | | World's Wildest Police Videos (CC) | | World's Wildest Police Videos (CC) | | World's Wildest Police Videos (CC) | | World's Wildest Police Videos (CC) |
| 43 | FOX | Fame "Choices" Hollywood is offered a chance to go on a soap opera in Hollywood. (CC) | | Blind Date: Former contestants. (CC) | | Blind Date: Former contestants. (CC) | | Trading Spouses: Meet Your New Mommy (Part 2 of 2) (CC) | | Report With Shepard Smith (CC) | | Cagney & Lacey New information may reveal a past miscarriage of justice. (CC) |
| 44 | BET | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Music: Clara. (CC) | | Movie Special: Prince. (N) (CC) | | The Parkers "Hold Up" (CC) | | The Parkers "Hold Up" (CC) | | Access Granted "Mystery Date" (CC) (DVS) | | Access Granted "Mystery Date" (CC) (DVS) |
| 46 | COURT | NYPD Blue Simone and Spowicz attend to prove a murder suspect innocent. (CC) | | Cops From Seattle arrive for backup at a Seattle police station. (CC) | | The System "Las Vegas CSI, Against All Odds" (CC) | | Forensic Files "Pernice by the Evidence" (CC) | | Forensic Files "Pernice by the Evidence" (CC) | | The Investigators "Trail of Clues" Clues lead to an assassin's confession. (CC) |
| 48 | STR-WD | The Simpsons (CC) | The Drew Carey Show (CC) | Star News Focus Asia (CC) | Just Shoot Me (CC) | John Doe (CC) | | The Bachelor (CC) | | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (CC) | | Just Shoot Me (CC) |
| 50 | LIFE | The Golden Girls A friend wants to go to romance. (CC) | | The Golden Girls A friend wants to go to romance. (CC) | | ** "A Crime of Passion" (1999) Drama! Tracey Gold, Powers Boothe, David Gallagher. A medical student is framed for her father's murder. (CC) (DVS) | | "Lethal Weapons" (1999, Mystery) John Ritter, Mary McCormack, Megan Gallagher. A man's ex-wife accuses him of murdering his high schooler. (CC) | | The Golden Girls Branches sets es- sential daughter. (CC) | | The Golden Girls Dorothy and Stan begin marriage. (CC) |
| 51 | ABC-FM | Full House Michelle's bad kids makes trouble. (CC) | | Full House D.J. Drake gives his drivers a good time. (CC) | | 7th Heaven "High Anxiety" Kevin and Annie's married friends; Kevin and Annie's married friends. (CC) | | ** "Little Princes" (1995, Drama) Eleanor Brown, Liam Cunningham, Leslie Matthews. A perky girl suffers at the hands of a cruel headmistress. (CC) | | Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC) | | Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC) |
| 53 | HIST | The Civil War Draft Riots (CC) | | Guns of the Civil War (CC) | | Inside North Korea The country's 50-year history is kept hidden from the rest of the world. (N) (CC) | | The Real Dr. Evil North Korean President Kim Jong Il is widely regarded as the world's most dangerous man. (CC) | | Inside Pop! P's Secret (CC) | | The Trial of Jesus Biblical scholars comment on one of the seminal events in human history. (CC) |

JAPAN TV

Afternoon
12:30 V.I.P. (12)
1:30 U.S. Movie (1996): The Protector:
Krago's Island (2:00)(12)
5:50 News (6)

Evening
7:00 NHK News (1)
7:00 Japan Pro Ball: Yomiuri Giants vs. Chunichi Dragons (4)
7:25 What I Like About You (3)
10:00 News (1)
1:40 U.S. Movie (1981): Arthur (2:02)(4)

JAPAN TV (BS7)

Morning
7:00 World News
8:00 World News
9:00 World News
11:00 MLB: Cleveland Indians vs. Seattle Mar-

Afternoon

2:00 PBS NewsHour
3:00 CNN News
4:00 World News
5:00 CNN News
5:25 ABC News
Evening
6:00 Japan Pro Ball: Hanshin Tigers vs. Yakult Swallows
9:30 World Sports Highlights
10:00 MLB Highlights
11:00 BS News
11:30 Economic News
12:16 2006 FIFA World Cup Soccer: European Preliminary

2:05 Asian News
3:20 World Amazing Sports

3:50 PBS NewsHour
4:40 Asian News
5:00 World News

JAPAN TV (BS11)

Morning

10:00 Classical Music: NHK Music Festival
2004
Afternoon
2:40 U.S. Movie (1969): True Grit (2:10)
Evening
7:00 NHK News
8:00 U.S. Movie (1979): Alien (2:00)
10:00 TV Series: Monk
12:58 French Movie (1967): Le Samourai
(1:42)

WOWOW

Morning
6:30 Oswald #7
7:30 TV Series: Friends
8:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Crossroads (1:35)
9:40 U.S. Movie (2001): A Beautiful Mind (2:17)
Afternoon
11:00 TV Series: The Sopranos

1:00 U.S. Movie (2001)

Evening
6:00 U.S. Movie (2002): The Bourne Identity (2002)
8:00 TV Series: Third Watch
9:00 TV Series: CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
10:00 U.S. Movie (2001): Sideways of New York (1:54)
12:00 U.S. Open Tennis, 8th Day
4:00 German Movie (2001): Nigerdwo in Afrika (2:24)

MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M4 Size Fresh Monday
8:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music

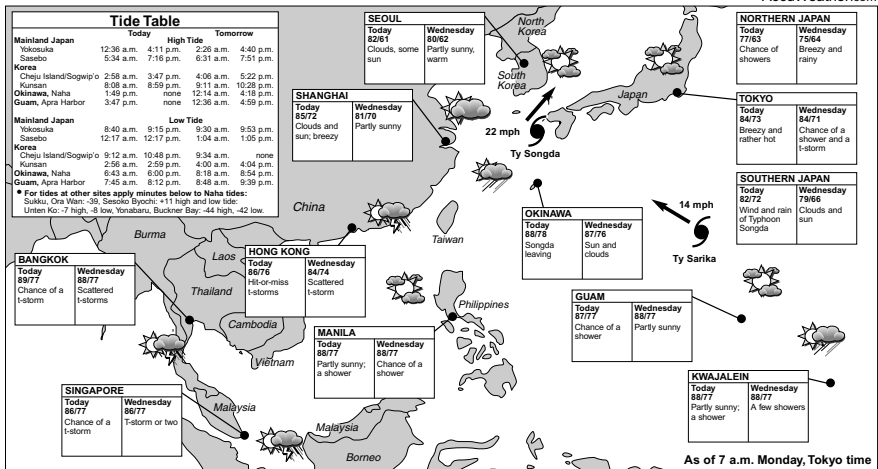
RESULTS

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M Size Fresh Monday
8:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music
11:00 Ten, Chaine

Afternoon

1:20 Ashlee Simpson
12:30 Making the Video: Asher
1:30 Top Choice
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 Top Choice
4:00 Top Choice Selection: Hip Hop, R&B Reg-
gae
5:00 Top Choice
Evening
6:00 M Size Street Tuesday
7:00 World Chart Express Supported by
Honda
9:00 Top Choice
9:30 M Size All Request
10:00 YATAI
11:00 Movie Special: I, Robot
11:30 Pure Music
12:00 Top Choice
12:30 Consensus: LL Cool J
1:00 M Size Street Tuesday
2:00 M Size All Request
2:30 Classic
3:00 Consensus

The Pacific Forecast

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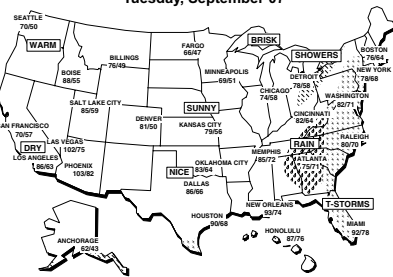
Extended Forecasts

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| TOKYO Thursday: Partly sunny, high 81, low 65. Friday: Rain, high 73, low 63. | KADENA Thursday: Partly sunny, high 85, low 77. Friday: Showers, high 85, low 76. | SEUL Thursday: Sunny, high 79, low 64. Friday: Mostly sunny, high 81, low 64. | MANILA Thursday: Showers, high 88, low 77. Friday: Showers, high 88, low 77. | HAGATNA Thursday: Periods of clouds and showers. Friday: Showers, high 87, low 76. Saturday: Showers, high 88, low 75. |
|--|--|--|---|---|

Sunday's USA Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|----------------|----------|----------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Albuquerque | 78/54 | Los Angeles | 101/65 | San Francisco | 70/57 |
| Amarillo | 88/56 | Little Rock | 89/70 | San Jose | 70/57 |
| Anchorage | 60/43 | Louisville | 90/69 | Seattle | 70/50 |
| Ashville | 82/62 | Miami | 84/69 | Spokane | 70/50 |
| Baltimore | 82/65 | Milwaukee | 84/69 | St. Louis | 89/71 |
| Birmingham | 89/71 | Nashville | 89/67 | Tampa | 81/76 |
| Bismarck | 72/51 | New York | 74/61 | Tulsa | 94/66 |
| Boston | 66/56 | Orlando | 81/76 | Wichita | 90/60 |
| Brownsville | 94/75 | Philadelphia | 77/62 | | |
| Buffalo | 85/62 | Phoenix | 59/75 | | |
| Burlington | 76/55 | Pittsburgh | 83/62 | | |
| Charleston, SC | 84/73 | Portland, OR | 74/52 | | |
| Charlotte | 84/69 | Portland, ME | 64/48 | | |
| Cleveland | 85/68 | Salt Lake City | 75/52 | | |
| Columbus, OH | 88/66 | St. Louis | 89/71 | | |
| Duluth | 76/57 | San Antonio | 93/75 | | |
| Haci | 81/79 | San Diego | 89/69 | | |
| Hartford | 71/52 | San Juan | 90/77 | | |
| Helena | 68/46 | Tampa | 81/76 | | |
| Indianapolis | 88/67 | Tulsa | 94/66 | | |
| Jacksonville | 84/76 | Washington | 83/67 | | |
| Kansas City | 86/60 | Wichita | 90/60 | | |

Tuesday, September 07



U.S. Extended Forecast

All eyes will continue to focus on Frances Tuesday as the torrential rains continue. Although Frances will weaken to a tropical depression, this will not greatly diminish the threat for flooding. Rain and gusty winds will spread across Alabama, Georgia and parts of the Carolinas as the storm tracks further inland. Elsewhere, a weakening cool front will move southeast, with a few showers and thunderstorms crossing into New York and Ohio during the day. Otherwise, high pressure will dominate much of the remainder of the country, with warm to hot conditions continuing in the West. By Wednesday into Thursday, the remnants of Frances may bring heavy rain to parts of the Ohio Valley and the Appalachians.

Tuesday's Pacific Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Bangkok | 89/77 | Iwakuni | 84/70 | Sasebo NB | 85/73 |
| Beijing | 83/68 | Kadena AB | 88/78 | Sapporo | 77/63 |
| Camp Casey | 82/59 | Kansan AB | 79/63 | Seoul | 82/61 |
| Christchurch | 52/36 | Kwajalein | 88/77 | Shanghai | 85/72 |
| Diego Garcia | 86/77 | Manila | 88/77 | Shanghai | 85/72 |
| Hagatna | 87/77 | Misawa AB | 80/67 | Sydney | 71/45 |
| Hanoi | 81/79 | Okinawa | 88/77 | Taegu | 77/60 |
| Hong Kong | 86/76 | Perth | 60/45 | Taipei | 92/74 |
| Honolulu | 87/76 | Pusan | 77/66 | Tokyo | 84/73 |

Tuesday's World Temperatures

| CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW | CITY | HIGH/LOW |
|-----------|----------|--------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Acapulco | 91/74 | Budapest | 80/58 | Kabul | 100/62 |
| Athens | 72/58 | Buenos Aires | 60/39 | New Delhi | 82/50 |
| Auckland | 52/42 | Cairo | 95/67 | Oslo | 61/44 |
| Baghdad | 112/78 | Canary | 85/73 | Paris | 78/59 |
| Barcelona | 86/74 | Cape Town | 65/44 | Rio de Janeiro | 79/69 |
| Berlin | 71/59 | Geneva | 76/61 | Rome | 78/59 |
| Bermuda | 85/73 | Jerusalem | 89/63 | St. Petersburg | 58/37 |
| Brussels | 77/58 | Johannesburg | 70/46 | Moscow | 66/42 |
| | | | | | |



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OPINION

Bush speech weakened by lack of specifics

John Kerry, the Republicans kept telling us at their convention last week, has perfected the flip-flop. It's a skill that has its uses, such as evaluating whether President Bush made a convincing case in his acceptance

Jay Ambrose

speech that he should be re-elected.

Yes, he did. No, he didn't.

His domestic agenda was more energetic and innovative than Kerry's, but lacked either focus or convincing specificity. Bush used a wonderful phrase in the speech — "the ownership society" — but did little to

amplify the idea or to show how more than a few of his proposals were connected to it. On top of some of his better proposals were a number of lesser ones of the laundry-list sort. The word "misanthropy" comes to mind.

Once again, Bush said he would push to let younger workers sign up for individual retirement accounts as part of their Social Security future. Such accounts could be an exciting means of helping to rescue Social Security from the crisis it confronts and of enabling people of modest means to accumulate wealth.

The concept, however, is poorly understood among voters, and any legislation would encounter fierce resistance. Bush has brought the notion up previously, but also perfunctorily and without result. To show his seriousness, he needed to deal more with critics and the policy's promise. What we got was yet another bare mention.

Despite the 63 minutes the speech consumed, Bush also gave little time to his pledge to restrain federal spending. How will he go about it? He has failed miserably to keep spending under control the past four years, and his brief comment on the subject Thursday night did not lend him much credibility.

Similarly, Bush said he would aim to simplify taxes, an objective made extremely difficult because his administration has hopelessly complicated them. Reverse is the proper direction, and self-reform ambitions are commendable. But if we are going to have faith in the president, it would have helped to have had more details.

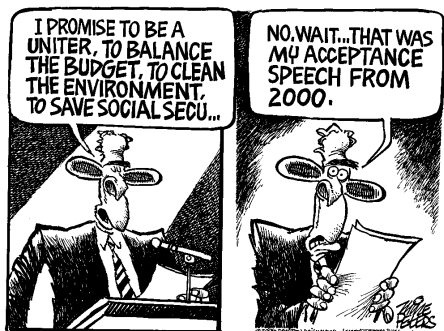
Measured against hope that the president would be inspired and inspiring, the speech fell short. Measured against Kerry's policy proposals, it stands tall. Kerry's domestic agenda consists of throwing money at anything that moves. Although he says he will cut the deficit in half, he also wants to expand dozens of programs and further reduce middle-class taxes; even taking account of his plans to tax the well-to-do more, you don't have to be a math major to see he has problems.

The Bush speech was at its liveliest when he was critical of Kerry.

As Bush said, Kerry opposes lawsuit reform. Bush is for it, and Bush is right. Kerry is against health savings accounts. Bush is for them, and Bush is right.

I thought Bush scored points when reminding us that Kerry had described Ronald Reagan's tenure in office as eight years of "moral darkness." Governmental activism is the liberal's dearest conviction.

Whenever the government is kind enough to leave us alone, as it often was in the Re-



agan years, the liberal is sure evil is afoot.

Bush also scored points in reminding us that, during our war in Iraq, Kerry referred to our allies as a "coalition of the coerced and bribed." Great Britain? Italy? Japan? Australia? It was a wild-eyed thing for Kerry to say. But Kerry has not even seemed clear-eyed on Iraq, or consistent. His acknowledged differences with Bush on actual policies regarding that war are not great, and yet he misleads voters by saying Bush misled the nation into the war. At the same time, Kerry has said he would vote again to give Bush the authority to intervene.

I believed Bush when he said in the speech that he gets up every morning thinking of how to make the world safer. I think he has done a good job on the war on terrorism; if he hadn't, we would have more dates besides Sept. 11, 2001, to haunt us.

As for his convention speech, it sometimes sounded as if it were written by the same proverbial committee that, in trying to invent the horse, came up with the camel. It was not such a good job. On the other hand, it was.

Jay Ambrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

President on the mark with optimistic proposals

Chicago Tribune

It was no surprise that President Bush stressed his greatest perceived asset among voters — his stewardship of this nation's security — when he spoke Thursday night to an appreciative Republican National Convention. "If America shows uncertainty and weakness in this decade, the world will drift toward tragedy," Bush told the party faithful and a global TV audience. "This will not happen on my watch."

But Bush's speech went well beyond his conviction that a proactive — not reactive — military strategy is the best way to keep America safe. He addressed the tectonic shifts in the everyday lives of Americans. Few people now spend their entire careers with one company, and hence, and many of today's mothers work outside the home. But, "many of our most fundamental systems — the tax code, health coverage, pension plans, worker training — were created for the world of yesterday, not tomorrow."

His remedy reflects an optimist's faith in the upward economic trajectory of that tomorrow. "We will transform these systems," he said, "so that all citizens are equipped, prepared — and thus truly free — to make your own choices and pursue your own dreams."

In essence, Bush's invocation of an "ownership society" advances twin themes of reform: modernizing government programs such as Social Security and providing more vehicles by which Americans can chart and protect — their health care, their careers and their savings.

Convention speeches aren't a good forum for itemizing the details of proposals as ambitious as those Bush floated Thursday night.

Reasonable minds can disagree on those

proposals once the details are on the table. Reforming Social Security, for example, will prove appealing only if the transition cost would be affordable.

But the agenda Bush outlined is a refreshing balm for voters frustrated by decades of nanny-state proposals that hinge on big-government solutions. Bush's agenda dedicates him to the proposition "that government should help people improve their lives, not try to run their lives."

That's an attractive notion in an era when government has promised more handouts than it can continue to provide. Bush senses the train wreck Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan keeps anticipating: As now constituted, the big entitlement programs — chiefly Social Security and Medicare — at some point will need to raise more revenues (read: payroll taxes), or reduce bene-

fits for an aging baby boom generation.

Bush's proposed reforms, such as permitting Americans to steer the investment of small portions of their government retirement accounts, offer intriguing alternatives.

All the more so at a time when Americans are expanding their stakes in this country. More than half of American households now own stocks, and almost 70 percent own their own homes. In short, more and more Americans are accustomed to managing, and maximizing, their finances and futures. Given the opportunity to man-

age more of their retirement planning and health care resources, many no doubt would embrace the revolutionary changes

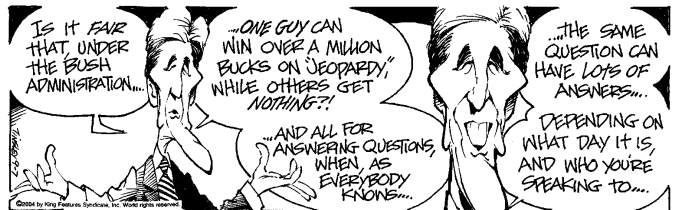
Bush proposes for his second term.

Between now and November, John Kerry needs to convince the American people not only that he'd make a fine president, but that they have a pressing need to dismiss the president they now employ. With his crisp speech Thursday night, with his refusal to equivocate or second-guess his evident convictions, George W. Bush didn't make Kerry's challenge any easier.

[T]he agenda Bush outlined is a refreshing balm for voters frustrated by decades of nanny-state proposals that hinge on big-government solutions.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Cougars just visiting

WA DUVALL — Three 6-week-old cougar kittens were found in a couple's back yard, and authorities have no idea how they ended up there.

The kittens were found behind the home of Steve Schroeder and Shelah MacDonald in this rural town. They took the little cougars to the animal welfare organization PAWS in Lynnwood the next day. There the kittens are being fed by wildlife specialists working to prevent them from imprinting on humans.

They weighed 3 pounds each when found and now weigh 5 pounds each.

When police dogs attack

IN EVANSVILLE — This police dog didn't take a bite out of crime — he bit an elderly man watching authorities conduct a search being filmed by a local TV crew.

The canine that was tracking a gunman hit John Terry, a resident of Senior World retirement community, who was watching the search.

Terry did not require medical treatment, police said. He was sitting on an outdoor swing surveying the scene when the dog came up from behind and bit him on the right arm.

A camera crew from Evansville TV station WEHT was taping the police search, and got the bite on video.

Ribs fest kicks off

NV SPARKS — Some 300,000 people are expected to pig out on about 130,000 pounds of pork ribs.

The 16th annual Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-off got off to a sizzling start Thursday, and was to cook up ribs through Monday.

All the meaty bones are coming from Curly's Foods Inc., in Sioux City, Iowa.

The five-day cook-off attracts an estimated 300,000 who chow on "two-and-a-quarter down, St. Louis style" ribs.

First prize is \$7,500, a 4-foot trophy and, perhaps most important, bragging rights.

Cleaner spending spree

MD BALTIMORE — Three state agencies paid much more than they should have for janitorial supplies from July 2001 through last November, according to a state audit.

The report found that the State Highway Administration, Springfield Hospital Center and Morgan State University paid as much as 28 times more than the best-available prices.

The three agencies bought goods worth a total of \$1.4 million from 17 companies during the period that auditors identified as showing a pattern of paying exorbitant prices, the report said.

Religious signs ban

FL TALLAHASSEE — The state Supreme Court says a Boca Raton ordinance banning upright crosses and Stars of David in a city cemetery doesn't violate a state law protecting religious freedom. The court notes the prohibition is



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

just against vertical markers, not against religious signs. The ACLU sued the city on behalf of 400 families who used religious symbols as monuments.

Family sues Six Flags

CT HARTFORD — The family of a Bloomfield man who fell from a roller coaster at Six Flags New England filed a wrongful death lawsuit, saying the amusement park's owners have failed to live up to a settlement agreement.

Stanley Mordarsky, 55, was killed May 1 when he tumbled from the "Superman, Ride of Steel" coaster at the Agawam, Mass., park.

A settlement that was reached after the accident would have given \$450,000 to Mordarsky's mother and brother. The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court seeks \$1.5 million for Mordarsky's estate.

Speeder caught

MI GRAND HAVEN — Authorities couldn't catch him. They knew where to find him.

After receiving complaints in recent days about a motorcyclist repeatedly speeding on Interstate 196, deputies decided to wait for him alongside the highway.

They spotted the motorcyclist heading east. He was a blur as he blew past, and the deputies briefly gave chase. They clocked him doing 154 mph on a motorcycle on I-196.



Piggy party

Minor's Farm's Daisy the pot-bellied pig sits in a baby carriage during her 10th birthday party at the Bristol, Conn., Boys & Girls Club.

"If he's going 150, obviously we're not going to catch him," said Ottawa County sheriff's Sgt. Bill DeWitt.

Deputies arrested the 21-year-old man a short time later at his job in Grand Rapids.

The man faces several charges, including speeding and fleeing and eluding authorities, said DeWitt.

Medical settlement

MS BILOXI — A Mississippi man was awarded more than \$1.4 million in damages for injuries he suffered during unnecessary brain surgery.

Charles Connetti sued the doctors at Memorial Hospital in Gulfport and Charity Hospital in New Orleans in 2001. Surgeon Michael Lowry and radiologist Michael Diaz were accused of causing permanent neurological damage to Connetti. Lowry performed the surgery to remove a cyst. The cyst was in the brain of another patient who later died.

Mended heart

OH CINCINNATI — An Iraqi girl who had heart surgery was released from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.

Fatma Saad Abdul-Aziz, 9, is expected to spend at least five weeks living with a family in suburban Anderson Township. She came to the United States after her father brought her to a U.S. military base near Baghdad.

An Army physician's assistant helped arrange her travel and treatment.

Record fine over trout

ID LEWISTON — A record fine has been imposed on a Texas man for violating Idaho trout fishing regulations. Glen Cothrum, 63, of Midland agreed to pay \$4,350 for exceeding the rainbow trout limit at north-central Idaho's Moose Creek Reservoir. Cothrum caught 58 more trout than the legal limit of six. Cothrum told conservation agents that there weren't any trout in Texas and he was trying to bring home as many as he could.

Man pleads not guilty

WI RACINE — A man accused of beating, kidnapping and leaving his former wife in a locked, unheated storage unit last winter pleaded not guilty to five charges during a preliminary hearing.

David M. Larsen, 40, is accused of ambushing his ex-wife, Teri Jendusa-Nicolai, when she stopped at his home to pick up their children Jan. 31. Investigators say he beat her with bat, stuffed her in a plastic garbage container and then left her in an unheated storage facility in Illinois.

Park may be fines

CA SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK — Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park may be fined \$75,000 for defying air quality authorities by setting a controlled fire. The San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District said officials willfully disobeyed a June 30 ban on burning. Park authorities disagreed with the air board's findings and started the blaze.



Practice makes perfect Crystal Barnes, 11, plays her new baritone horn on the porch of her family's Bentonville, Ark., home as her dog, Stormy, listens from a living room window.



Hang on tight

Eric Feherenbach, center, hangs on to his daughters, Ellie, 7, left, and Emalee, 5, as they fly from the top of the bungee ride at the Central Wisconsin State Fair in Marshfield, Wis.



Stream of fire

A section of the wildfire northwest of Amidon, N.D., flares as a line of flames consumes timber in the hills along the Little Missouri River.



Statuesque bathers

Geese swim in a pond with the sculpture called "The Bathers" at Griffis Sculpture Park in Ashford Hollow, N.Y.



Curious cubs

Two 11-week-old Bengal tiger cubs explore a man-made waterfall at Tiger Creek Wildlife Refuge near Tyler, Texas. The brothers were rescued from a facility in Arkansas 10 weeks ago.



Braving mouth of beast

Dave Brickner of Cheektowaga, N.Y., peers out from inside the mouth of "The Beast" at the annual New York State Fair in Geddes, N.Y. Brickner is an employee at the inflatable haunted house.

Prostitution declines

RI WOONSOCKET — Police say prostitution has declined following the arrest of a city man for the murders of three women with histories of drug use and prostitution.

Detective Cmdr. Luke Gallant said recent stings and undercover operations suggest there is less prostitution, although the department has not yet compiled the relevant arrest statistics to determine the extent of the drop.

In a sting, the police arrested just three men on charges of soliciting prostitutes.

"We arrested three, but there were at least 12 more out there who pulled up and talked to the woman but came short of actual solicitation before they got nervous, backed up and pulled away," Gallant told The Providence Journal.

He said the department has not changed the way it tackles prostitution problems, and has not needed to.

"There's no doubt the Jeffrey Mailhot investigation made folks aware that we're out there," he said. Mailhot was charged last month in connection with three women's deaths.

Policy not renewed

AZ LAKE HAVASU CITY — The city's insurance policy will not be renewed, apparently because the carrier fears too much liability related to carbon monoxide at the lake. The city received a non-renewal notice from United National Insurance Co., which provides its general liability coverage. Its broker and city staff said the company was worried about potential claims resulting from carbon monoxide poisoning at the Bridgewater Channel, where idling boats have created excess fumes on holiday weekends.

School crackdown

ME PORTLAND — High schools in southern Maine have drafted rules on attire, cell phones and what students can do during breaks. Portland High School banned card and dice games on school property. The principal of Deering High School hired a lawyer to define "appropriate" attire for its 1,300 students. Old Orchard Beach High School rolled back a four-year ban on cell phones, but students can't use them during school hours.

School enrollment starts

AR NORTH LITTLE ROCK — The state kicked off a campaign to enroll 7,000 poor children in free preschool programs by Oct. 1. The Legislature approved \$40 million for expanding early childhood education programs in response to a court order to improve schools.

Experts cited studies showing that a good start in school was linked to improved performance later.

Mass layoffs slowing

LA NEW ORLEANS — The number of large-scale layoffs in Louisiana slowed only a bit in 2004 with more than 11,000 workers losing their jobs en masse this year, according to the U.S. Labor Department. For the first seven months of 2003, there were

123 mass layoffs that took 12,074 workers off payrolls. The report covers employers who cut at least 50 workers in a given month.

Hepatitis C cases down

WI MADISON — The number of reported hepatitis C cases in Wisconsin fell off last year after a fivefold increase between 1997 and 2002, state officials said. They attribute the overall increase to greater awareness of testing for hepatitis C and reporting requirements. Wisconsin reported 828 cases in 1997, the first year the state collected data. Last year, 3,593 new cases were reported, down from 2002.

Gamblers getting help

OR PORTLAND — Record numbers of Oregonians are enrolling in the state's free gambling addictions treatment program, health officials say. For the first time, there isn't enough money to meet the growing demand, said Jeffrey Marotta, a psychologist for the state Department of Human Services. He said more than 1,500 gamblers, with debts averaging more than \$19,000, signed up in fiscal 2003.

Summertime chill

MN MINNEAPOLIS — From the northern forests of International Falls to the farm fields south of the Twin Cities, summer has felt like fall. Up north, it was the coldest summer on record in International Falls and Hibbing and the fourth coldest in 65 years in Duluth. Temperatures dipped into the 30s at Duluth International Airport this summer on six days, just two short of the numbers of days temperatures hit 80 degrees.

Bear hunt

NJ VERNON — Wildlife officials are considering another December bear hunt after an unusually large number of human encounters with bears occurred in northern New Jersey last month.

Farmers and homeowners in four counties reported more than 30 home invasions and attacks on pets and livestock. More than 300 bears were killed during the state's first bear hunt in 33 years last December, wildlife officials said.

Bear-proof bins

MT BROWNING — Wildlife managers on the Blackfoot Indian Reservation are installing 25 new bear-proof garbage containers, hoping to reduce conflicts that have led them to kill at least 15 black bears this summer.

Experts say a weak summer berry crop has bears on the prowl for easy food sources, and garbage cans full of food and trash are an easy target.

Dan Carney, a wildlife biologist for the tribe, said typically three or four bears will be destroyed each year after causing problems on the reservation. The deaths this year are "way up," he said.

With the help of a tribal wildlife grant and the Defenders of Wildlife, Blackfoot officials spent about \$41,000 on the new bear-proof bins, he said. Workers placed the bins at different locations over the past two weeks.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Horoscope

The morning brings a torrent of activity, but it's exceedingly fun. You could find yourself saying "yes" to more responsibility since the first wave was no big deal. Friends are a valuable resource to business, and the reverse is also true. Bosses, beware! Many call in sick today as the moon shifts from fun-loving Gemini into home-loving Cancer.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY
(September 7). This year has opportunities galore. Picking and choosing is where the magic happens. Believe you can have great things, and choose accordingly. At work, you're diplomatic and will move into a trusted position in November. Many of you move to be near love or to find a better job in May. Aquarius and Taurus are excellent love matches.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Play to win! If you make the sale (and this is especially true if you're "selling" yourself), then your bank account reflects a new level of affluence by this time next month. In general, be gentler with others than you are with yourself.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The less you try to impress, the more you succeed. Stop worrying what someone thinks of you, and just ask. For many of you, an ex returns. Alimony payments and financial obligations are reduced through better communication.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're gracious even when you don't feel like being gracious. As a direct result, good things happen for you down the line. It will mean more because you had to wait. You'd do well to have a little more faith.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Constant interruptions keep you from being as productive as you would like. But your relationships are the true value in your life. Do what it takes to connect. Visit, and share all that you'd like to share.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Progress in love is linked to tough choices. But you are brave and ready to do what it takes. Rely on your instincts. Negotiation and

renegotiations are favored. Better arrangements are had with very little effort.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). True friendship — one of your specialties — brings financial opportunities. Be consistent: those around

Jillson



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Keep trying to connect with that person who is hard to reach. This one has a dire need for help, acknowledgment and love (don't we all?). But it takes a special person (like you) to respond to the needs of others under these stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Now that you're resolute about the changes you want to make in your life, it's a perfect time to share your dreams and goals. If you can get someone to keep you accountable for what you said you would do, you'll stay ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Cut yourself some slack. Your every move is not being evaluated—that is, except by you. Prospective romantic companions will come on strong. You'll make headway with your creative project.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Each contact you make with another person gives you a chance to test out your social skills. Perfecting these will help you go far in any area of life on which you focus. Asking in the right way brings instant results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). In order to create success in your financial realm, you must first believe it can be done. Lately, you've been thinking a little too small. Be open to more input, especially from the people you don't think will be helpful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). This is the perfect day to shape up your ideas into something viable. This is best done on paper — you'll see the errors and illogical aspects of your plan and be able to fix them before you even embark.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



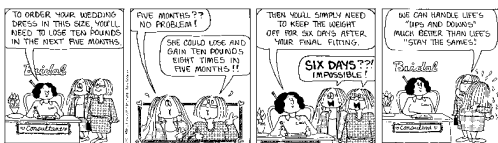
ump Start



Zits



Cathy



Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



TODAY'S THE FIRST DAY
OF SCHOOL! MEMORIZE
THOSE CONJUNCTIONS!
NAME THOSE RIVERS!



DON'T FORGET YOUR
LOCKER COMBINATION!!
WHAT'S THE CAPITAL
OF VENEZUELA?



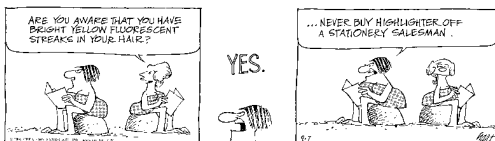
I THINK THE SUMMERS
ARE GETTING SHORTER..



Foxrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



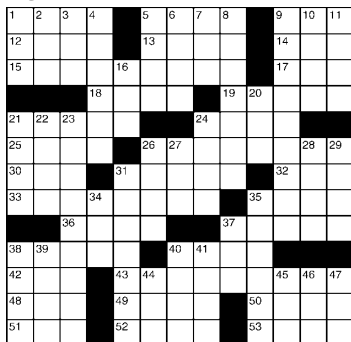
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 "Portnoy's Complaint" writer
- 5 Jettison
- 9 Young fellow
- 12 One side of the Urals
- 13 — about (roughly)
- 14 Address MacGraw
- 15 2003 Derby winner
- 17 Simpson's neighbor
- 18 Sudden onrush
- 19 MTV offering
- 21 Arrangement
- 24 Hideaways
- 25 Put your hands together
- 26 Philip Marlowe's creator
- 30 Send out invitations
- 31 Taxpayer's fear
- 32 Anger
- 33 Unnecessary
- 35 Valhalla VIP
- 36 Is out of sorts
- 37 Good, in Guadalajara
- 38 Silent Marx brother
- 40 Thrash
- 42 Sapporo sash
- 43 Internationally
- 48 Antiquated
- 49 Satan's specialty
- 50 "American —"
- 51 Retainer

Down

- 1 U.K. fliers
- 2 Columbus sch.
- 3 10th-anniversary gift
- 4 Problem
- 5 AMA members
- 6 Condominium, e.g.
- 7 Stylish, '60s style
- 8 Forestall
- 9 Big win in
- 10 November
- 11 "Thank You" singer
- 12 "Uh-huh"
- 13 Third-party abbr.
- 14 Read bar codes
- 15 22 Otherwise
- 23 Go by bus
- 24 Lectern locale
- 25 Poolroom supply
- 26 Mgrs.
- 27 Mgrs.
- 28 Ms. Brockovich
- 29 Ashcroft's predecessor
- 31 Within the rules
- 32 Party bowlful
- 33 Be cleverer than
- 37 Awful
- 38 Bit of stock
- 39 Footage?
- 40 Competent
- 41 Right angles
- 42 Eggs
- 43 Turkish mountain
- 44 Commerce
- 45 Stephen Evans
- 47 Wapiti

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-7

CRYPTOQUIP

S'G VDZJJU WHSJJD P ZM
GZHSTR JSRFM PNTKMW.
UNK GSRFM WZU S'G

XVKJJJDV - XNNVPSTZMDP.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A YOUNG GYMNAST IS SMART-MOUTHEED, I SUPPOSE HE COULD GIVE YOU FLIP SERVICE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals L

Biffle edges Mears for Busch win in California

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — Greg Biffle won a nearly race-long duel with Casey Mears, pulling away after the last two laps to capture the NASCAR Busch Series race Saturday at California Speedway.

The two Nextel Cup regulars dominated the 150-lap Target House 300, leading all but 33 laps between them. The pair swapped the lead twice in the last seven trips around the 2-mile oval before Biffle took the top spot for good two laps from the end and drove off to his fifth win of the season and the 16th of his career.

Biffle, who led a race-high 72 laps, complained to his crew throughout the race that his Roush Racing Ford was down on power, but managed to beat Mears with superior handling.

"I've never been at a disadvantage like that in my life," Biffle said. "That was a lot stronger than me on the straights, but I could loosen him up in the corners and he had trouble putting the gas down in the corner. Once I could break that draft and get about six car lengths, I could get away from him."

Biffle wound up winning by 0.356 seconds — about four car-lengths — over Mears' Chip Ganassi Racing Dodge.

Had I would have won my first Busch race, but that was the most fun race I've ever been involved in," said Mears, the nephew of four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Rick Mears and a native of nearby Bakersfield. "I was pretty loose, but it was a good race and Biffle raced me clean. I'll go home pretty happy with this one."

Kevin Harvick finished third, followed by Casey Kahne, Jamie McMurray and series leader Martin Truex Jr. Kyle Buehler drove up ninth and slipped to 95 points behind Truex in the race for the series title.

Biffle had built a lead of nearly four seconds over Mears late in the race when debris brought out the third caution of the day on lap 135. Jason Leffler stayed on track and took the lead, but Biffle changed from third place on the restart on lap 139 to regain the top spot with Mears, who restarted sixth, surging back to second.

Mears, who started from the pole, led 45 laps, stayed near the top of the banking and zoomed past Biffle on lap 143. But Biffle, who now has two straight Busch victories at the California track, broke back out from lap 144 as a stalled car brought out the final caution.

Mears got another shot at Biffle on the final restart on lap 147, but Biffle drove away from him. The two leaders were side-by-side, bumping briefly just before the finish line as Mears barely held the lead on lap 148.

Biffle drove away from Mears on the banking to move past for the final time on lap 149 and steadily pulled away.

Croom, Bulldogs winners in historic debut

First black head coach in SEC leads Mississippi State over Tulane

BY JOEY MCCREARY

The Associated Press

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Sylvester Croom needed just one game to make Mississippi State feel like a winner again.

Croom won his head coaching debut, with Jerious Norwood rushing for 112 yards and a touchdown in the Bulldogs' 28-7 victory over Tulane on Saturday night.

"Even on the bus ride over, I thought to myself, 'Twenty-eight years working toward this day, and now it's here,'" Croom said.

A dream that was an impossible dream at one time today was a reality."

The Bulldogs held their hel-

metts in hand, whooping and dancing around Croom, the first black head football coach in Southeastern Conference history, as the clock expired. Flashbulbs sparked throughout Scott Field, and Croom jogged off to a standing ovation from the crowd.

Croom, a longtime NFL assistant, was passed over by his alma mater Alabama when its coaching job came open last year. The Tuscaloosa native played and coached under Bear Bryant and was crushed when the Crimson Tide chose Mike Shula over him.

So, Croom took his years of experience and West Coast offense to Starkville, where the Bulldogs were looking for someone to rebuild a struggling program.

"Anything less than a conference championship or a national championship, I don't know if I could be much more proud of these guys because of how much they've grown up since December," Croom said.

Mississippi State hired Croom just days after the 2003 season ended to replace Jackie Sherrill.

Omarr Conner threw for 135 yards and a touchdown in his first start at quarterback for the Bulldogs, who scored on their first two possessions of the second half to break a scoreless tie.

"Coach let us know that we are the hardest-working, hardest-conditioning team in the nation," Conner said. "[Croom] gave us a

great talk at the half, and we came out motivated. Everybody just put it together."

Mississippi State, which has just eight victories in the last three seasons, has a winning record for the first time since winning the 2001 opener against Memphis — when this year's season was fresher.

Tulane closed to 14-7 early in the fourth quarter on Lester Ricard's 59-yard touchdown pass to Chris Bush.

But the Bulldogs countered on their next series, when Norwood's 43-yard off-tackle run set up Fred Reid's 5-yard TD run to make it 21-7.

Tulane (0-1) didn't crack mid-field the rest of the way.

Midshipmen beat Blue Devils in opener

Quarterback Polanco accounts for 259 yards, two touchdowns in 27-12 victory over Duke

The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Aaron Polanco threw a touchdown pass, ran for another score and finished with 259 yards of offense to help Navy beat Duke 27-12 on Saturday night in the season opener for both teams.

Polanco ran for 130 yards on 23 carries and was 8-for-9 passing for 129 yards, including a 58-yard touchdown pass to Jason Tomlinson at the end of the first half.

Kyle Eckel fumbled twice in the first half for Navy, but scored on a pair of 3-yard runs in the second half. He finished with 100 yards on 23 carries.

"We moved the ball well in the first half, but we just turned it over," Navy coach Paul Johnson said. "Once Aaron settled down, I thought he played well."

Polanco carried the ball for most of the yardage on Navy's

final 59-yard drive, which ended with Eckel's second score with 3:06 to play.

Navy, which led the nation in rushing last season, gained 301 yards on the ground and had 430 yards of offense.

"It is always good to get a win, especially with how we played in the first half," Polanco said. "We had some trouble holding on to the ball, but once we did, we settled in."

Polanco's scoring pass to Tomlinson with 12 seconds left in the first half tied the game at 6-6.

Duke's 56-yard Dargun rushed for a career-best 114 yards on 20 carries. He had 101 yards on 17 carries in the first quarter.

Mike Schneider was 8-for-13 passing for 59 yards, and Chris Dapoli was 5-for-7 for 51 yards.

Led by Lane Jackson's 12 tackles, Navy held Duke to 265 yards.

Navy 27, Duke 12

| Duke | Navy | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0-12 |
|---|------|---|---|---|------|
| First Quarter | | | | | |
| Duke—FG Minkowski 25, 6:54. | | | | | |
| Second Quarter | | | | | |
| Duke—FG Minkowski 25, 6:17. | | | | | |
| Navy—Tomlinson 38 pass from Polanco (kick failed), 0:57. | | | | | |
| Third Quarter | | | | | |
| Navy—Polanco run (Blumenfeld kick), 9:44. | | | | | |
| Duke—Dapoli 15 run (kick failed), 4:34. | | | | | |
| Navy—Eckel 3 run (Blumenfeld kick), 0:12. | | | | | |
| Fourth Quarter | | | | | |
| Navy—Eckel 3 run (Blumenfeld kick), 3:06. | | | | | |
| A—29:07. | | | | | |
| INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS | | | | | |
| Rushing—Duke, Dapoli 20-114; Dapoli 9-47; Boyle 3-14; Schneider 7-59; Dapoli 2-15; Polanco 20-130; Eckel 29-100; Davis 4-57; Roberts 3-13; Hall 1-2; Hines 1-1; Blumenfeld 1-6. | | | | | |
| Passing—Duke, Schneider 13-58-59; Elliott 7-5-61; Navy, Polanco 9-8-120. | | | | | |
| Receiving—Duke, McCormick 3-26; Elliott 3-14; Patrick 2-36; Landrum 2-13; Roland 1-9; West 1-1; Dargun 1-6; Navy, Tomlinson 3-40; West 2-16; Dargun 1-12; Yokitis 1-8; Roberts 1-2. | | | | | |
| Penalties—Duke 29-17 30-43 | | | | | |
| Time of Possession 29:17 30:43 | | | | | |

Navy QB Aaron Polanco, left, is tackled by Duke linebacker Malcolm Ruff during the first half Saturday in Annapolis, Md. Polanco rushed for 130 yards.

Schiano scores biggest victory as Rutgers coach

BY TOM CANAVAN

The Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Freshman Jeremy Shockey kicked four field goals and Ryan Neil scored on a 31-yard interception return to lead improving Rutgers to a 19-14 victory over Michigan State on Saturday.

The victory was coach Greg Schiano's biggest since coming to Rutgers in December 2000, and it gave the Scarlet Knights renewed hope for their first winning season since 1992.

Michigan State, which went to the Alamo Bowl last year in John L. Smith's first season as coach, made Rutgers sweat on the final minutes, driving to the Scarlet Knights' 25 with less than two minutes to play.

Damon Dowdell missed an

open Jeremy Scott in the end zone on third down and Eric Knott was tackled short of a first down on a screen pass on fourth down.

After running out the clock, Rutgers players jumped for joy and hundreds of fans in the stadium-record crowd of 42,612 — which included Rutgers alumni and the Gandolfini star of the HBO series "The Sopranos" — joined the celebration.

To converted from 24, 47, 23 and 42 yards in attempting a fourth-down conversion with the first five tries coming on the Scarlet Knights' first five possessions.

Despite outgaining Michigan State 273-159 and holding the ball more than twice as long as the Spartans in the first half, Rutgers trailed 7-6 at halftime.

Kicked: National champion LSU looks shaky in opening victory

KICKED, FROM BACK PAGE

A heavy storm moved over the stadium just before kickoff.

Officials sent the players back to the locker rooms because of lightning in the area. Kickoff was delayed almost an hour and the field was sloppy when play began.

LSU's offense was sloppy throughout. The Tigers showed no signs of the methodical offense that helped them win a championship last season.

Randall, who replaced Matt Mauck at quarterback, got off to a rough start. His first pass was intercepted and he completed only seven of 18 for 66 yards. He was replaced at the start of the second half by Russell, who was 9-for-26 for 145 yards and three touchdowns.

The Tigers generated only 93 yards (28 passing and 65 rushing) in the first half.

Oregon State got an early break, recovering a fumble on the opening kickoff to set up on the LSU 25. They followed that with three straight penalties that gave them first-and-35 on the 50.

Anderson completed five of six passes, including a 6-yard touchdown toss to George Gillette, but threw the Beavers up 24-0 after Serna's first missed PAT. Anderson, who passed for 4,058 yards with 24 touchdowns and 24 interceptions in 2003, was 26-for-47 for 231 yards and three touchdowns. He had one interception and was sacked four times.

"It's really hurt," Anderson said. "I'm not going to lie. We went out there and fought. I love my team and appreciate every word we did. We tried hard out there and just came up a little short."

No. 15 Clemson wins in 20T, avoids second upset by Wake

The Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Charlie Whitehurst threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Kyle Browning in the second overtime that lifted No. 15 Clemson to a 37-30 victory over Wake Forest on Saturday.

The Tigers (1-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) led 19-3 early in the second quarter and looked intent on beating the Demon Deacons as thoroughly as Clemson got beat in a 45-17 defeat at Wake Forest a season ago.

But the Deacons (0-1) rallied for 24 straight points and led 27-19 after Chris Barclay's 50-yard touchdown run with 12:20 to go in the game.

The Tigers rediscovered their offense when it counted.

Whitehurst, starting at his 22 with 6:35 left, completed passes of 16 and 19 yards to Chansi Stuckey, then hit Ainslee Currie with an 8-yard completion to get inside Wake's 10. A pass interference call on fourth-and-goal kept the drive alive and Yusuf Kelly leaped over the pile from a yard out with for Clemson's first points in nearly 40 minutes.

Kelvin Grant pulled down the tying conversion on a perfectly lofted ball into the left corner of the end zone to send it to overtime.

The teams traded field goals in the first extra session. Then Whitehurst found Browning on a screen pass to give Clemson the lead.

Wake Forest could not respond. Jason Anderson juggled a pass out of bounds. Chris Barclay, who ran for 179 yards, was stopped at the line of scrimmage. Cory Randolph's final two throws went incomplete.

Whitehurst was 20-for-41 for 288 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. Currie caught nine passes for 152 yards and Stuckey, a converted quarterback, had eight receptions for 112 yards.

In other Top 25 games Saturday:

No. 3 Georgia 48, Ga. Southern 28: At Athens, Ga., Danny Ware rushed for 135 yards and three touchdowns in his college debut for the Bulldogs.

Ware was the first freshman running back to start his first

AP Top 25 roundup

game at Georgia since 1943. He opened the scoring for Georgia with a 10-yard touchdown run. He added a 3-yard scoring run early in the third quarter, helping the Bulldogs pull away from a close game at halftime.

Tyson Browning had a 72-yard punt return and Reggie Brown caught a 43-yard pass from David Greene for Georgia.

No. 7 Texas 65, North Texas 0: At Austin, Texas, Cedric Benson ran for 181 yards and two touchdowns to lead the Longhorns' punishing rushing attack.

Benson, who ranks third in career yards at Texas behind Heisman Trophy winners Ricky Williams and Earl Campbell, had 141 yards as Texas cruised to a 44-0 halftime lead.

Benson averaged 12.1 yards on 15 carries and Texas rolled up 513 yards on the ground against the three-time defending Sun Belt Conference champions. The Longhorns' 673 yards was the third best total in school history. It was Texas' largest margin of victory since an 81-16 victory over TCU in 1974.

No. 10 West Virginia 56, East Carolina 23: At Morgantown, W.Va., Kay-Jay Harris rushed for a school-record 337 yards and four touchdowns for the Mountaineers.

Harris broke the school record of 291 yards set by Kerry Marbury in 1971 against Temple. It also was a Big East record, eclipsing the mark of 299 set by Miami's Edgerrin James in 1998 against U.C.L.A.

Jason Colson added two scores as West Virginia's platoon rushing attack continued the Mountaineers' recent dominance of East Carolina in the opener for both teams. The Mountaineers compiled 478 yards on the ground in the two previous seasons, they ran for 361 and a Big East-record 536 against the Pirates.

No. 12 Kansas St. 27, W. Kentucky 13: At Manhattan, Kan., Darren Spokes ran for 23 yards and a touchdown on 42 carries, leading the Wildcats past the Division I-AA Hilltoppers.

Spokes, the nation's leading rusher with 1,986 yards last season, extended his school record with his 20th 100-yard game. He has gone over 200 yards in four of his last six games. After his 32-yard touchdown run for a 17-6 lead in the third quarter, he needs two more touchdowns to tie Elbert Robertson for the Wildcats' career record of 46.

Dylan Meier, a sophomore making his first start at quarterback as Robertson's replacement, threw for 183 yards and ran for 60 yards and one score.

No. 18 Missouri 52, Arkansas St. 20: At Columbia, Mo., Brad Smith threw for 233 yards and three touchdowns and ran for 63 yards and a score for the Tigers.

Smith, a junior who ran for 1,406 yards and passed for 1,977 last season, averaged 10.5 yards on six carries and scored on a 34-yard second-quarter run. He completed 14 of 22 passes, with the three touchdowns and one interception.

Damien Nash ran 15 times for a career-high 126 yards and scored twice, and Sean Coffey caught five passes for 113 yards and a touchdown, a 60-yarder.

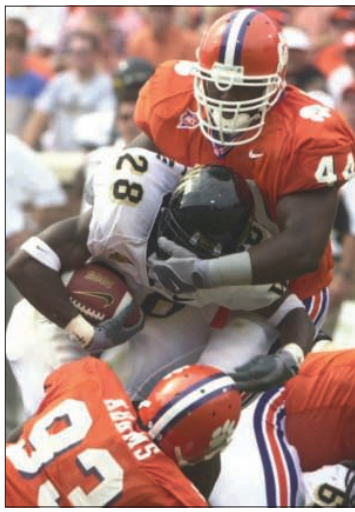
No. 22 Maryland 23, Northern Illinois 20: At College Park, Md., Nick Novak became the leading scorer in Atlantic Coast Conference history, kicking three field goals and PATs to rescue the erratic Maryland offense.

Novak kicked field goals of 43, 34, and 44 yards. His 11-point night gave him a career total of 335, breaking the record of 326 set by Scott Bentley of Florida State.

The victory enabled Maryland to improve to 20-1 at home under fourth-year coach Ralph Friedgen, who is 32-8 since taking over at his alma mater. The Terrapins also gained a measure of revenge against the Huskies, who upset Maryland last year in Illinois.

No. 25 Minnesota 63, Toledo 21: At Minneapolis, Bryn Coplin was 10-for-12 for 279 yards and a touchdown in his first start, and Minnesota's running backs picked up where they left off last season.

Marion Barber III and Laurence Maroney, looking to become the first tandem in NCAA



Wake Forest's Chris Barclay (28) gets wrapped up by Clemson's Donnell Clark (44) and Gaines Adams (93) on Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Clemson, S.C. Clemson won 37-30 in double overtime.

history to rush for 1,000 yards each in consecutive seasons, scored two TDs apiece before halftime to help Minnesota build a 42-7 lead in the opener for both teams.

The Gophers finished with 704 total yards, the second most in school history. The record is 742, set in 1982 against Ohio.

Barber (78 yards) and Maroney (108 yards) carried 14 times each and didn't play in the second half with the game already well out of hand. Jared Ellerson had four receptions for 140 yards, and true freshman Ernie Wheelwright caught two touchdown passes for Minnesota.

In Sunday's early Top 25 game:

No. 24 Purdue 51, Syracuse 0: At West Lafayette, Ind., Kyle Orton passed for 287 yards and a career-high four touchdowns as the Boilermakers used a slew of big plays in their first shutout in four years.

Orton hit Brian Hare for a

75-yard score in the first quarter, Taylor Stubblefield for TDs of 33 yards in the second quarter and 67 yards in the third quarter, and Brandon Jones for 32 yards late in the third.

Ben Jones' 34-yard field goal gave Purdue a 37-0 lead going into the final period, when Brandon Kirsch replaced Orton in the opener for both teams.

The Boilermakers got their final touchdowns on a 44-yard run by Jerome Brooks and a 47-yard pass from Kirsch to freshman Dustin Keller with just over two minutes to go.

For Syracuse, it was the worst shutout loss since a 59-0 beating at Miami in 2001. The last Purdue shutout came in the 2000 season opener against Central Michigan.

Purdue's defense was just as dominant against the Orange, who started a freshman at quarterback for the first time since Todd Norley in 1982. Joe Fields was 8-for-15 for 93 yards, and he was sacked twice, intercepted once and constantly pressured.

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Yankees' Brown has surgery on broken hand

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Brown had successful surgery on his broken left hand Sunday and vowed to pitch again for the New York Yankees this season.

"I don't know how much you want to know. I've pitched in more pain than I have right now," he said sternly.

MLB briefs

The right-hander is still expected to miss at least three weeks after breaking two bones in his non-pitching hand when he punched a wall in the clubhouse Friday night, an immature act of frustration that could cost his team dearly.

Brown had two pins placed in his hand at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center on Sunday morning. With a large bandage wrapped around his hand, he was back at Yankee Stadium answering questions from reporters an hour before New York played the Baltimore Orioles.

A contrite Brown said he planned to apologize to his teammates personally, and also offered an apology to the entire organization and Yankees fans for leaving the club short-handed in the middle of a tight pennant race.

"They all deserve one," he said. "I made a mistake of letting my emotions take over. If there was any way in the world I could take back what I would, I would. I take the blame. I don't expect anybody to understand."

When asked what made him throw a left at the wall instead of a right, Brown said: "Years of experience."

The 39-year-old Brown said the same intensity that made him lose his temper has driven him to succeed throughout his big league career. He said he'll return to the mound as soon his doctor allows, but there was no doubt in his mind it will be this season.

RHP Ashby rejoins Padres

SAN DIEGO — The Padres Padres brought back right-hander Andy Ashby on Sunday and plan to use him out of the bullpen.

The Padres purchased Ashby's contract after he successfully rehabbed his right arm from Tommy John surgery, performed last Oct. 20. He last pitched in the majors for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2003, going 3-10 with a 5.18 ERA.

The Padres signed him to a minor league contract on March 30. He hasn't pitched at any level this season.

Gwynn's No. 19 retired

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Padres retired Gwynn's All-Star outfielder Tony Gwynn's jersey No. 19 before their game against the Colorado Rockies on Saturday night.

Gwynn tied the National League record with eight batting championships during his 20-year career — all with the Padres.



De La Salle running back Dustin Watson (20) is tackled by Bellevue linebacker E.J. Savannah during Bellevue's 39-20 win Saturday in Seattle. It was De La Salle's first loss since Dec. 7, 1991.

Calif. H.S. team beaten after 151 wins in a row

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A California football team's 151-game winning streak, the nation's longest, ended Saturday when Bellevue High School beat De La Salle High of Concord, Calif., 39-20 before a crowd of 24,987 at Qwest Field.

De La Salle had not lost a game since falling in the 1991 North Coast Section championship game Dec. 7, 1991, when the current seniors on the team were in kindergarten.

The De La Salle Spartans broke the nation's previous longest winning streak at 72 games in 1997, going on to more than double it.

Coach Bob Ladouceur, who now has a 287-151 record in a quarter century at the suburban San Francisco school, was gracious in defeat, and said it was just time for De La Salle to finally lose.

"I'm all for there being a lot of king of the hills, not just one," he said. "Bellevue represented their state well."

The streak — the longest in perhaps any sport — created a near-cult following for Ladouceur. The program at the private, all-boys school has inspired two books, a documentary and national telecasts of games, and last month earned the Spartans a seven-page spread in Sports Illustrated.

Report: Dolphins trying to recover millions from Williams

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins have filed a grievance against Ricky Williams, asking an arbitrator to uphold their contractual right to recover \$8.6 million paid to the retired running back between signing bonus and incentives, the Miami Herald reported on its Web site Saturday.

NFL Players' Association attorney Richard Berthelsen told the newspaper that the Dolphins asked that the hearing be expedited so the case can proceed within the next few weeks.

The Herald reported last week that Williams called the team, tell-

Sports briefs

ing them he would come back if he received a new contract. The Dolphins declined that request.

Spinks retains undefeated title

LAS VEGAS — Cory Spinks easily retained his undisputed welterweight championship Saturday night, unanimously outpointing Miguel Angel Gonzalez at Mandalay Bay.

Spinks (34-2) won 10 of the 12 rounds on all three judges cards in a dominant performance.

A former 140-pound champion, Gonzalez (49-4-1) pressed the action but could not answer Spinks' footsteps.

Olympic silver medalist charged in boyfriend's death

BRUSH, Colo. — Olympic wrestling silver medalist Sara McMann has been charged with careless driving causing death following a crash that killed her boyfriend, the Colorado State Patrol said Saturday.

Steven Blackford, 28, a three-time NCAA All-American wrestler at Arizona State, died Friday when the Jeep they were in rolled off the shoulder of Interstate 76 in northeastern Colorado, police said.

Both were thrown from the vehicle. Blackford and McMann, who was driving, were not wearing seat belts.

McMann, 23, won silver at the Athens Olympics in the 138½-pound class before losing the championship match to training partner Kaori Icho of Japan.

Crew kept unbeaten run alive

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ross Paule had a bat trick, and the Columbus Crew extended their team-record unbeaten streak to 11 games Saturday night with a 3-1 victory over the Los Angeles Galaxy.

The Crew are 4-0-7 since June 26.

Singh, Woods locked in struggle for No. 1

The Associated Press

NORTON, Mass. — Second-ranked Vijay Singh shot an 8-under 63 on Saturday to take a two-stroke lead over top-ranked Tiger Woods, Billy Haas and John Rollins after the second round of the Deutsche Bank Championship.

With an eagle on the first hole sparking the best round of the tournament, Singh took the lead from Woods with back-to-back birdies on Nos. 12-13 and moved into position to take Woods' No. 1 ranking, too.

"It's not going to affect me one way or another if I overtake him," said Singh, who has already won five times this year, including the PGA Championship, "Yeah, if I win this tournament, I'll be No. 1. Fine. But what would that change for me? I'm going to go out there next week and do it all over again."

Woods, who shot a 68, has held the No. 1 ranking for a record 264 consecutive weeks. Singh would take it over if he finishes higher than Woods or, if Woods finishes lower than a tie for seventh, Singh would come out of the weekend No. 1 no matter what.

Haas had a 64, and Rollins shot a 66.

Donald rises final-round 66 to win European Masters

CRANS-SUR-SIERRE, Switzerland — European Ryder Cup player Luke Donald shot a 5-under-par 66 Sunday to win the European Masters by five strokes for his second European tour victory.

Donald, an Englishman who won the Scandinavian Masters twice in 2003, ended the opening leg and finished at 19-under 265.

Golf roundup

Third-round leader Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain closed with a 72 and was runner-up at 270.

Sergio Garcia of Spain shot a 73 and shared third place with Robert Coles of England and two-time champion Eduardo Romero of Argentina.

Kerr bids State Farm lead

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Cristie Kerr shot her second straight 9-under 63 to take a four-stroke lead into the final round of the State Farm Classic.

Kerr, seeking her third victory of the year and fourth in eight full seasons on the LPGA Tour, had a 21-under 195 total on the Rail Golf Course — the best 54-hole score on the tour this season. She also moved into position to threaten the 72-hole mark of 27 under set by Annika Sorenstam in the 2001 Standard Register Ping.

Christina Kim, who took a four-stroke lead into the round, shot a 71, leaving four strokes back at 17 under.

Stadler looking for back-to-back senior wins

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Craig Stadler moved into position for his second straight victory, shooting a 9-under 63 to take a one-stroke lead over Jay Haas after the second round of the inaugural First Tee Open.

Stadler, who won the Tradition Las Vegas for his third Champions Tour victory, had two eagles, six birdies and a bogey at Pebble Beach. He had a 9-under 125 total after opening with a 72 on Friday on the Bayonet course.

Canada 3-0 in pool play in World Cup of Hockey

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Martin Brodeur made 27 saves, and Brad Richardson, Kris Draper and Joe Sakic scored goals to help Canada beat Russia 3-0 Saturday night in the World Cup of Hockey, giving the Canadians a 3-0 record in round-robin play.

Canada will play the last-place team in the North American pool in the quarterfinals on Wednesday night in Toronto.

Richards opened the scoring with a short-handed goal early in the second period, and Draper made it 2-0 just 1:37 later. Sakic scored early in the third period, and Russia's Sergei Gonchar completed the scoring midway through the period.

"We did what we have to do," Draper said. "We're 3-0, but we have to realize that we need to get better. It's do or die from here."

Russia (1-1) will complete play in the four-team pool Sunday night in Toronto against Slovakia (0-2). The United States (1-2) fin-

ished pool play Friday night with a 3-1 victory over Slovakia in St. Paul, Minn.

Brodeur stopped Alexander Frolov in alone on a two-on-one in the second period and twice thwarted Alexei Yashin coming off the corner on a third-period shift.

"It was a special game because I never played against an all-Russian team and I was a little nervous about it," said Brodeur, a three-time Stanley Cup champion with the New Jersey Devils and the No. 1 goalie in Canada's 2002 Olympic triumph.

Earlier Saturday, Finland won the European pool with a 4-4 tie against Sweden.

The Nordic rivals both finished unbeaten in their pool games, but the Finns won the pool on goal differential.

Sweden's Tomas Holmstrom scored a power-play goal with just 11 seconds left in regulation, and neither team could get a goal in the five-minute overtime period.

Yanks avert home sweep vs. Orioles

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Drained by a difficult week, the New York Yankees needed an uplifting victory.

That's exactly what they got Sunday. Derek Jeter sparked the stagnant offense, Jorge Posada drew a bases-loaded walk in the ninth inning and the Yankees rallied from a three-run deficit for a 4-3 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

"These are the games you have to know how to win," Jeter said.

Especially when the previous five days produced nothing but turmoil. New York's 22-0 loss to Cleveland last Tuesday was the worst in franchise history. Then starter Kevin Brown broke his non-pitching hand when he punched a clubhouse wall in frustration Friday night.

That's no way to settle into a September pennant race. Leave it to Jeter to turn things around.

"In the time I've been here, the nine years, he's been the guy who's made this club go," manager Joe Torre said.

Jeter reached base four times and scored three runs for the Yankees, who erased their major league-leading 53rd comeback victory.

Bernie Williams had his first sacrifice bunt since April 25, 1996, moving Jeter to third in the ninth.

Rafael Palmeiro hit a three-run homer in the first inning for the Orioles, who were looking for their first three-game sweep at Yankee Stadium since June 6-8, 1986. Instead, they had their six-game winning streak snapped.

Javier Vazquez had an encouraging start for the Yankees, who maintained their 2½-game lead over Boston in the AL East. Mariano Rivera (4-1), who gave up four runs and got only one out Saturday, pitched out of a first-and-third, none-out jam in the ninth for the win.

Mo is the same demagogue whether things are going good or bad. He's probably one of the most confident people I've ever played with," Jeter said.

Jorge Julio (2-3), who struck out three All-Stars in a row for a save Friday night, walked Jeter leading off the ninth. He went to second on a wild pitch before Yankees sacrificed.

After intentional walks to Gary Sheffield and Alex Rodriguez, Julio missed low on a 3-2 pitch to Posada.

Red Sox 6, Rangers 5: Curt Schilling pitched into the ninth inning for his major league-leading 18th victory, David Ortiz hit his 35th homer and Boston held on at home against Texas.

The Red Sox, who had their 10-game winning streak snapped Saturday, completed a 9-1 home stand. Boston has won 17 of its last 19 overall, and 12 of its last 13 at Fenway Park.

Schilling (18-6) allowed three runs and five hits in 8½ innings, struck out 10 and didn't walk a batter in winning his fifth straight start. He fanned the final batter in the second through seventh innings, and improved to 10-1 in Fenway this season.

It was Schilling's third game this season with 10 or more strikeouts, and 89th of his career. He was going for his fourth complete game of the season and 83rd of his career, but Eric Young singled with one out in the ninth and Michael Young hit his 18th home run to end the right-hander's day.

Keith Foulke came in and gave up two runs on pinch-hitter David Dellucci's two-run single with two outs before getting Kevin Mench to lineout to second to end it.

Michael Young homered twice for the Rangers, who fell seven games behind the AL wild-card-leading Red Sox. It was Young's fifth career multihomer game, and first this season.

Ryan Drees (11-8) took the loss, allowing four runs and seven hits in six innings.

Blue Jays 13, Athletics 5: Rookie Gabe Gross hit



Boston Red Sox third baseman Bill Mueller throws out Texas Rangers' Alfonso Soriano during the Red Sox's 6-3 victory Sunday at Fenway Park in Boston.

his first career grand slam and Russ Adams hit his first major league home run in Toronto's rot of visiting Oakland.

It was a big day for rookies. Gross collected five RBIs, Adams drove in three, and Bobby Crosby and Nick Swisher homered for the AL West-leading A's, who have lost just three of their last 19 games.

Oakland made five errors, their most since committing five Sept. 3, 2003, at Baltimore. The club record is seven.

Carlos Delgado (9-6) failed to become the fifth Oakland starter with 10 or more wins. Hardened allowed seven runs on seven hits in 4½ innings in his first career start in his home country.

Carlos Delgado also homered for the late-place Blue Jays, who avoided a three-game sweep.

Royals 12, Twins 3: Jimmy Gobble (7-8) pitched a complete game and Joe Randa went 4-for-5 with a homer in Kansas City's victory at the Metrodome.

David DeJesus hit a two-run homer, and the top five batters in Kansas City's lineup each had two RBIs.

Officially eliminated from postseason play with a loss on Saturday, the Royals save didn't play like a team that's 28½ games behind the first-place Twins. They won at the Metrodome for the first time in nine tries this year.

White Sox 6, Mariners 2: In Chicago, Joe Borcherd and Paul Konerko each hit two-run homers to lead the White Sox to their third straight.

Ichiro Suzuki went 1-for-4 to give him a major league-leading 224 hits, 33 short of the single-season record. He has 26 games remaining to reach the record of 257 hits, set by George Sisler in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns.

In Saturday's AL games:

Angels 6, Indians 1: Jarrod Washburn returned from the disabled list and won for the first time since July 15 as visiting Anaheim downed Cleveland.

Washburn (11-5), sidelined since July 20 with an injured rib cage, allowed two hits in five innings to help the Angels remain four games behind Oakland in the AL West and move within 3½ games of Boston in the wild-card race.

White Sox 8, Mariners 7: Ichiro Suzuki went 5-for-5, but Paul Konerko hit two home runs and Mark Buehrle pitched seven strong innings to lead the Chicago White Sox over visiting Seattle.

Suzuki has had five or more hits in a game three times — all this season. He has two or more hits in six of his last seven games.

Buehrle (13-8) allowed three runs and nine hits in seven innings for the White Sox.

Cardinals complete perfect homestand

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Reggie Sanders hit a pinch-hit RBI single in the 11th inning to give the St. Louis Cardinals a three-game sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers and their ninth straight overall with a 6-5 victory on Sunday.

The Cardinals wrapped up a perfect 6-0 homestand and won for the 14th time in 16 games.

Hector Luna tripped to the center-field wall on the first pitch from Giovanni Carrara (4-2) and scored when Sanders singled through a drawn-in infield.

Jim Edmonds tied a career-high with three doubles and John Mabry hit a two-run homer for St. Louis, which entered the ninth inning with a 5-2 lead.

The Dodgers tied it with three runs on four hits off Jason Iraheta. Jayson Werth had a pinch-hit RBI single and Jose Hernandez had two-out, two-run double.

Ray King (5-2), the fifth St. Louis pitcher, struck out one in a scoreless 11th.

The Cardinals' winning streak is the longest since a 10-game run in 2001.

Phillies 4, Mets 2: Brett Myers (8-9) threw three hits over seven innings to help Philadelphia sweep visiting New York and send the Mets to their ninth straight loss.

Mike Lieberthal and Jimmy Rollins homered for the Phillies, who moved back to .500 — at 68-68 — for the first time since Aug. 29.

Philadelphia has won six of nine, but is 6½ games behind idle Chicago in the NL wild-card race.

Billy Wagner, the Phillies' off-infielder closer, made a triumphant return for the Phillies in a setup man after missing more than a month with a strained left rotator cuff. In his first appearance since July 21, Wagner pitched a perfect eighth inning.

Expos 4, Braves 3 (12): Tony Batista hit a one-out RBI double in the 12th inning at Olympic Stadium as Montreal ended a three-game losing streak.

Endy Chavez drew a one-out walk off Juan Cruz (4-2) in the 12th.

Batista followed with a drive high off the wall in left-center as Chavez trotted home with the winning run, while his teammate spilled out of the dugout to greet him.

Brad Wilkerson homered and Ben Schneider pitched four strong innings with four hits for the Expos.

Astros 10, Pirates 5: Mike Lamb went 4-for-5 with a homer and four RBIs to lead Houston to its ninth straight victory.

Carlos Beltran added three hits as the Astros moved within 1½ games of idle Chicago for the NL wild-card lead. Houston has won 12 of its last 17 and is on its longest winning streak since the Astros won a franchise-record 12 straight Sept. 3-14, 1999.

The Pirates hit just four straight, and of their last 19.

Reds 9, Brewers 2: Adam Dunn hit a three-run homer and Luke Hudson pitched six strong innings to lead visiting Cincinnati.

Ryan Freed went 3-for-5 with a home run for the Reds, who

AL Roundup

snapped a five-game losing streak. The Reds had been outscored 46-15 and had a team ERA of 8.58 during the skid.

Hudson (2-1), making his fifth start of the season, gave up only one hit and struck out four. Joe Valentine and Juan Padilla pitched the final three innings for the Reds.

In Saturday's NL games:

Cardinals 5, Dodgers 1: In St. Louis, Jim Edmonds hit his 30th career home run and Jason Marquis won his 11th straight decision.

The NL Central leaders needed only two hits — tying their season low — to beat the NL West-leading Dodgers for the second straight night.

Astros 6, Pirates 5: Mike Lamb hit a go-ahead RBI double in the seventh inning as Houston extended its season-high winning streak to eight games.

Houston has won 10 of its last 12 games, and 16 of its last 19 to move two games behind idle Chicago in the NL wild-card race.

Chad Qualls (3-0) threw one inning of relief for the win. Brad Lidge pitched the ninth for his 20th save in 23 opportunities.

Jason Bay and Jack Wilson each homered for visiting Pittsburgh, which has lost 13 of its last 18 and was mathematically eliminated from the NL Central Division race.

Braves 9, Expos 0: Russ Ortiz pitched a three-hit shutout at home against Atlanta. Andrew Jones hit a grand slam to help the Atlanta Braves Montreal and win its fifth straight game.

Ortiz (1-0) pitched the first 15 batters before Einar Diaz lined a clean single to right-center to lead off the sixth.

The Braves have won 11 of 12, and are 35-12 since the All-Star break.

Phillies 7, Mets 0: Cory Lidle threw a three-hitter for his second straight shutout as Philadelphia extended visiting New York's losing streak to eight games.

Lidle is the first Philadelphia pitcher to toss opposite shutouts since Curt Schilling in 1992.

Jimmy Rollins hit a three-run homer and Jason Michaels scored twice for the Phillies, who are 8-13 since Aug. 12 — with all of their wins against last-place Milwaukee and the Mets.

Brewers 7, Reds 3: Russell Branyan and Keith Ginter each hit three-run homers and rookie Ben Hendrickson earned his first major league victory as Milwaukee downed Cincinnati at Miller Park.

Hendrickson (1-6) pitched six solid innings to avoid being the first pitcher in 25 years to lose in each of his first seven major league games.

Rockies 8, Padres 2: Shawn Estes pitched seven solid innings and had two outs in the ninth when he hit his first major league homer as Colorado won at San Diego.

Estes (14-6) allowed two runs and four hits, matching his single-season team record for wins by a left-hander, first set by Mike Hampton in 2001.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

| American League | | | | | | | | | | AL leaders | | | | | | | | | | Braves, Expos | | | | | | | | | | Phillies 7, Mets 0 | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|--|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|--|--|--|---------------|----------|---|---|----|-------|----|---|---|---|--------------------|----|---|---|---|---------|----|---|---|---|---|
| East Division | | | | | | | | | | G AB R H Pct. | | | | | | | | | | ALPHA | | | | | | | | | | NEW YORK | | | | | | | | | | |
| New York | 84 | 52 | 618 | — | | | | | | Izuzi | 5 | 30 | 89 | 153 | | | | | | | Furcal | 5 | 3 | 11 | Wlrsn | 1b | 2 | 0 | 0 | Kopong | 2b | 4 | 0 | 1 | Rollins | ss | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Baltimore | 63 | 72 | 467 | 29% | | | | | | Mora | 112 | 441 | 92 | 152 | 34% | | | | | | DeRosa | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Piazza | c | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Chicago White Sox | 63 | 72 | 467 | 29% | | | | | | Vazquez | 130 | 518 | 90 | 159 | 33% | | | | | | Neftci | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Toronto | 63 | 72 | 467 | 29% | | | | | | Durazo | 139 | 429 | 70 | 137 | 31% | | | | | | O'Dell | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Minnesota | 77 | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | Erstad | 101 | 400 | 66 | 127 | 31% | | | | | | Wright | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Philadelphia | 67 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | Brooks | 129 | 473 | 89 | 151 | 31% | | | | | | Wright | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Cleveland | 67 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | Damon | 127 | 526 | 106 | 165 | 31% | | | | | | Blewer | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Los Angeles | 68 | 67 | 584 | 28% | | | | | | Monte | 127 | 526 | 106 | 165 | 31% | | | | | | Wright | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Oakland | 71 | 58 | 596 | — | | | | | | McMinn | 118 | 488 | 88 | 153 | 31% | | | | | | Wright | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Seattle | 71 | 58 | 596 | — | | | | | | McMinn | 118 | 488 | 88 | 153 | 31% | | | | | | Wright | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Texas | 74 | 61 | 638 | — | | | | | | McMinn | 118 | 488 | 88 | 153 | 31% | | | | | | Wright | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| San Francisco | 75 | 63 | 375 | 30% | | | | | | McMinn | 118 | 488 | 88 | 153 | 31% | | | | | | Wright | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Central Division | | | | | | | | | | W Pct GB | | | | | | | | | | Montreal | | | | | | | | | | PHILADELPHIA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Detroit | 62 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Minnesota | 59 | 566 | — | | | | | | | P | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Chicago | 68 | 67 | 584 | — | | | | | | W | 5 | 55 | 63 | | | | | | | | Johnston | 5 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
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